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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVI

**JANUARY 1, 1988** 

NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

## HO! REAPERS OF LIFE'S HARVEST

Ho! Reapers of life's harvest, Why stand with rusted blade, Until the night draws round thee, And day begins to fade? Why stand ye idle, waiting For reapers more to come? The golden morn is passing, Why sit ye idle, dumb?

Thrust in your sharpened sickle, And gather in the grain; The night is fast approaching, And soon will come again; The Master calls for reapers, And shall He call in vain? Shall sheaves lie there ungathered, And waste upon the plain?

Come down from hill and mountain In morning's ruddy glow Nor wait until the dial Points to the noon below; And come with stronger sinew, Nor faint in heat or cold, And pause not till the evening Draws round its wealth of gold?

Mount up the heights of wisdom, And crush each error low; Keep back no word of knowledge That human hearts should know; Be faithful to thy mission In service to the Lord, And then a golden chaplet Shall be thy just reward.

- I. B. Woodbury

#### USING THE NEW YEAR

As one year draws to its conclusion, another year begins. Traditionally with the coming of the new year there is a habit of making resolutions. These resolutions deal with improvements needed to be made in our lives. The new year beings a slight desire to have a new life in the new year.

Unfortunately as traditional as the making of resolutions is, it is just as traditional to break them. At the end of the upcoming new year, probably the same resolutions will be made again. Resolutions made only in the strength of the flesh will soon be broken. Human strength can not long endure in these new resolutions.

It is worthy to resolve to make these changes but it is far more worthwhile to make the effort needed to carry them into effect. It is far easier to dream of the wanted changes than to accomplish them. But there is no reward for the thought or intent behind the uncompleted wish. The thought is necessary to begin but there must be an accompaning action for the reward to be given. Before a house is built there has to be an idea which will produce a blueprint. Then comes digging for the foundation and pouring it and adding the framework until the building is complete. When done, it can be sold or occupied. That is the reward at the end of the idea. To have stopped at any point before it was completely done would have brought ridicule instead of reward.

A good foundation is needed for a sturdy house. But a foundation alone is not a house. In fact if the rest of the building is not built upon that foundation, the weather will eventually destroy the foundation. Good intentions if not carried into practice are soon destroyed.

## THE BIBLE MONITOR

**JANUARY 1, 1988** 

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New Years resolutions are good intentions. It is up to us whether they will be carried into practice or be destroyed by inactivity. As the New Year stretches ahead of us, we think we have a long time to accomplish our purpose but as we approach the beginning of another new year; if time continues, we will again realize how short a year really is. Time flies and unless we master it we will lose its advantage. If we do not use time but merely float along with it, we will not accomplish much.

It doesn't matter whether our endeavor is secular or Spiritual. There is a need for continual application of effort towards its completion. Just as temporal affairs demand a part of our time, so the Spiritual needs to be given our time and talents. We often boast of great Spiritual undertakings that we are going to do but we never accomplish them. Much of our task will be day to day toiling that will not seem very important or even necessary. But that daily repetitive labor will accomplish its goal over a period of time.

Are we willing to invest more time and effort during this new year to accomplish not only our material goals but also Spiritual goals? Too often a good time along the way causes us to lose sight of our goal.

Our talents are all different. We can either learn how to do a certain task or else pay someone else to do it for us. We can accomplish our tasks. If we do not use the talents entrusted to us they will be taken from us.

Our daily tasks may seem humdrum, boring or unnecessary but our overall goal for the new year cannot be done without some less than exciting daily tasks. These repetitive tasks come to seem more like nuisances than steps to the accomplishment of our greater goal. Our resolutions will be unaccomplished if we expect them to happen without repetitive action. Each day of the new year contains the opportunity to accomplish at least a wee bit of our yearly resolution.

It is very easy to be drawn from our daily, boring labor which does not seem very vital in accomplishing our resolution. When it seems unimportant it is easy to set it aside. But when one little detail is neglected it is easier to neglect yet another detail until finally so many details will be left undone that the overall project will never be completed.

If you want to make resolutions concerning needed changes in your life that is good. Change is never easy and change within yourself is the hardest to accomplish. Your resolutions demand much effort. Along with the effort there must be a determination to stick to the job, day after day until it is done. For it may become easier than ever to quit. When the goal is reached the work and determination needed will seem worthwhile. It will then become

apparent how necessary it was.

Make your resolutions. Keep your resolutions.

#### **NOTHING NEW?**

New Year's Eve is a time to celebrate, but after that, it's the same old thing. One day follows another until a year ends and it is filled with mostly routine things. The sun rises and sets as always, the moon continues on circling the earth on schedule. Oak trees continue to have acorns and cows continue to have calves. Nothing really is new, nothing really ever changes, not even the problems of mankind. Life and death for all creation just continues on, always following the same pattern.

Why then all the fuss over a new year? Will it be any different than the last one, or must it be just the same old thing, day in and day out? "There is no new thing under the sun" (Ecc. 1:9) and it doesn't take us long to find this out. Life can be very ho-hom at times, yet there is a way to have newness in your life, a way to bring meaning and purpose into an otherwise dreary existence. This way is in Christ. With Him, life won't be the same old thing day in and day out.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. To have a new life, you must be made new within. To be made new within, you must have Christ. Jesus can set you free from the past, He can change what you are now, and give you a future that is worth looking forward to. The newness in your heart will change your perspective on life, and even the routine things will take on a new meaning.

"Therefore we are buried by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Rom. 6:4. The newness in your heart brings a newness in your life — a new walk, a new talk, a new set of values. Everything is different when Christ comes in, and the sin goes out. From Him comes the strength to say, "no" to the Devil, to say "no" to the old ways and attitudes. This newness is a total change, not just a new exterior, and it shows in all we do.

"But now are we delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the latter." Rom. 7:6. The Law pointed out sin; Jesus sets us free from sin. After that, we are expected to serve Him. Our service should come from our hearts, with a desire to please Him. We can keep a set of rules, but unless there is a change in our hearts first, our service will be meaningless.

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Eph. 4:23-24. The renewal or newness starts within. A spiritual housecleaning takes place and in due time, one's whole life will be changed. This is not just a "facelife", but we become new creations in Christ. Life may go on the same and the world doesn't change, but we do change.

Is anything new with you? Or are you traveling in the same old rut? If you are, Jesus can change all this. "Nothing new" can become "all is new" in Him. Get out of your rut, comfortable though it may be, and see what Jesus has for you. As the days come and go, and 1988 unfolds before you, let Jesus make it a worthwhile year. There is no new thing under the sun — except in Jesus!

Sister Eileen Broadwater

## ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"A Challenge for 1988"

We, as members of God's Bible believing family... are a team and as such we need to be cheering on one another in the Christian race. We span many miles in regard to our homes but we are a team and we need to be functioning as a team.

I challenge you in 1988 to encourage each other more... so none of us will become hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Encourage each other by phone... by mail... by prayer... in any way possible... that we might all be victorious and meet with each other as a part of God's forever family in eternity.

Encouragement is not an option... it is a must and even a Bible command. The Apostle Paul was a constant encourager of the early churches. Read the Corinthians, the Colossians and Philippians and see encouragement in action. Yes, he warned, instructed and admonished but ultimately he encouraged them for further growth.

We can only encourage if there are strong relationships maintained among God's people. We need to offer more affirmation and appreciation for each other. Encourage others in their strengths and pray for each other's weaknesses.

Encourage in compassion... in the love of the Lord. ACT, don't just talk about what you are going to do, but do it. Be constantly challenged in '88 for improvement in Christian relationship. Sometimes we seem to forget that the Amalakites are on the outside of the church. We throw stones at brothers and sisters and in doing so give Satan the victory.

SMILE! It only takes twelve facial muscles to do it and frowning takes sixty-six... plus your wrong attitude muscle. We can never be "body builders" without smiles and an optimistic zeal to build up the Body of Christ. This will require rooting and grounding in love... but think what a church we can have if we go forward working, exhorting, encouraging, cheering each other along... dwelling in the Spirit of God.

Building a house is a special accomplishment but to tear one down doesn't take skill at all. It just takes a big explosion. Be a part of the builders in the Body and not one of the demolition team. Construct, confirm and teach. Edify and be concerned about getting other Christians up the ladder ahead of yourself.

If you are a builder, you will give others respect. If you are a builder, you will work toward a goal. If you are a builder, you will sell out for Jesus. Remember, anything that does not build up tends to tear down and is not in our best interest nor the church's best interest. Build others up verbally and build them up actively. Use the spiritual gift of gifts God has given you to climb high up the ladder of spirituality and to help others to have an easier climb up that same ladder.

In '88, choose to be edifier. It will be the most fulfilling and rewarding position to be in during this year. Let's heal the body with kindness. The Bible commands that we be kind and it is a grass roots part of our faith. Exercise it at home, in the church and out in the world. Don't let slopiness of manners ruin your public witness.

Kindness is really usefulness, availability and a generous disposition. It is love... and it is of God. Love is kind!

Choose submission for 1988. Submit to authority, to others in the body, to the will of God. Submit to the church and her government. Submission is never degrading and in fact, it is a sign of greatness. It is a sign that we understand our great supreme Example better. The real test of submission is to carry the standard that the Church has raised. Be sincere and don't miss the blessings that come from this "quality of life."

Learn to really forgive this year. To forgive is to lay aside, omit and yield up to another. Will you? To forgive is to drop the charges against others that you are carrying in your heart.

Enter into the new year with a genuine desire to comfort a hurting world. Someone needs you in a very special way. Are you making yourself available? Won't you heed the call? The basis for comfort is hope and to practice comforting is to know the comfort of Christ in your own life.

As a Christian, you are experiencing a rare life. It is one that is

being built on the principles of Jesus Christ. You have a contribution to make and you must make it or the Body will be broken and not complete. If you firmly believe the Bible... believe in the God of the Bible... and love and care for each other... if you have a desire to see others saved and become a part of the Family... you will have a full and rewarding year ahead. Our dynamic and creative God promises to bless us with "all spiritual blessings."

"Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice." Live a daily life of praise... "praising God with your whole heart in the company of His people..." praising Him today and forever.

The challenge for 1988... be all you can be for Jesus Christ. His coming is near... eternity but a breath away... live Life fully for Him.

Brother Len Wertz

### THE NEW YEAR AND THE DAY OF ALL DAYS

We are nearing the end of another year and also the beginning of a New Year. The changing from one year to another is not very important to us. More important is that we be prepared for the day of all days when the world shall be judged, when the Saviour will appear to gather His faithful to live with Him in the Eternal City of God. It will be a glorious day for those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Will we be among those who shall continue to live and abide at the Saviour's right hand?

We are living in perilous times. Never before in the history of mankind have we been blessed with so many things that make life comfortable and easy. Many of these things which could be used to the honour and glory of God are used for evil.

Also never before in the history of mankind was human life in such great danger because of the terrible destructive weapons that exist among the great nations of the world. Lasting peace can only be achieved by those who take God at His Word. We need the peace that Christ brought that will go on into eternity.

What will our answers be in the day of all days when the world shall be judged? Have we worked with a will in the days of our youth and loyally stood for the kingdom of truth?

There is an old saying, "The old must die and the young may die." We have no future promise of life in this wicked and sinful world. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." What we have done in the past year is done for eternity. As we look forward to the coming of another year, is it our intention to start it out right? We can make plans but the Lord only knows what is in store for us in

the future.

We who are old in this life have seen many years come and go. It does not seem long since I was young in this life and now I am nearing the four score year mark.

If we are true to the Gospel we have no time for the foolish and evil things of this world. Job said, "When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return." When our life's work is ended will we cross the swelling tide and the bright and glorious morning see? Today is the day of salvation. Work for the night is coming. We should always be prepared for the day of all days. The Psalmist David said, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Do we have the Christ like Spirit dwelling within us to be a good example to others or are we among those who are stumbling blocks to others? John, the Revelator, gives a description of what is in store for those who are unprepared for the glorious eternity in the day of all days when the world will be judged.

"Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." We should realize in our weakness we need to rely upon Christ. For we can do all things through Christ which strengthens us.

There is a glad time coming for the true and faithful at the resurrection of the just. When the pains, hardships and sufferings of this life are over, Praise God, we can look forward to a much better life to come. It is a very important matter that we be prepared at all times for we do not know when that time will be when we must lay this earthly armour down.

In our lifetime we have seen many who have fallen away from the faith of the Gospel and evil men and seducers waxing worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. This gospel prophecy is coming into fulfillment. It shall be so in the latter days. We are told many will be disappointed in the days of all days when the world shall be judged. May we be among them who are prepared for the Eternal City of God.

Brother J. F. Marks RD 3 Box 509 York, PA 17402

## SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 1, 1928 OUR HOMES Glenn Cripe

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with

hands, eternal in the heavens." II Cor. 5:1.

Many, many times we are called to view all that remains of our friends and relatives. Their soul has departed and taken its flight from this temple of clay that housed it. These occasions are not pleasant; but they come and no man can prevent them. These bodies are made from the dust of the earth and when we have used them sufficiently we must leave them go back to the earth again. No man is exempt from this.

These occasions remind us that we also must go the way of all the earth, that sometime our friends who remain will gather together at the house and then possibly follow our body to the little church on the hill where the minister will make a last few remarks, and then to the hillside where the sod has been lifted from its place, where our body shall return to the earth; then it will not be long until the grass will cover the little mound of earth. In a generation or two we shall be forgotten by all upon the earth. Is this the end?

Many a man has lived in terror at the thought of that which we have just outlined. They have thought of it by day and dreaded it by night until some have no rest at all. Especially if they are sick and have no hope that they will recover; then do they think of death, and having no hope they live in torment during their last hours upon this earth, and shall continue so in the world to come.

The servant of the Lord does not have this dread. Death is not full of horror for him. To him the future is not eternal darkness. He can look forward to his departure from this life with a certain hope that is known to only those who are servants of the most high God and who have been washed in the blood of Jesus. To him this is a time when the imperfect shall be made perfect, when the corruptible shall put on incorruption. This present tabernacle is full of imperfections that the heavenly tabernacle shall not have, all weaknesses that we now know shall be left with this present weak body that we now call our own.

God shall give us this building, the future abode of our spiritual body. It is only He that can supply our eternal needs, and He will fashion the temple in which we are to dwell when we leave this present one here upon earth. It is a gift of God, He shall supply it.

If men were to make this house it would not be perfect. Sometimes we read of doctors performing wonderful experiments upon the bodies of men and women. They can change the appearance of a person and even remove a part the body but even then the results of their labor are not as perfect a body as a normal healthy person would have. Man never has and never can make a perfect body for this mortal being; how could he make a perfect immortal body? After we have done all we can, then we shall be compelled to come before God and receive that which He has made for us.

This house we shall receive shall be eternal. We look into the past and we see many nations which were once powerful and have now gone into history, many men who were once intellectual giants who have gone the way of all the earth, and many who were perfect of body who no more display their perfection. As the years roll by we who are now so strong and active shall gradually see that strength decline and we shall lose the ability to stand up under a hard day of labor, the step shall grow shorter, and the time shall come when the body must be laid aside. Not so with the house God has made for our spiritual body. This house shall be eternal.

When we receive this building we shall not dwell here upon earth, but in heaven where God Himself dwells. Here disease leaves its marks upon us, troubles bow our shoulders and grey our hair, and labor leaves its marks upon us. There shall not be such where we shall dwell through eternity. This new house shall be eternal in the heavens. Can we all say that we are ready to receive this building? Now is the time to get ready for it. If we are not confident that we have lived such lives that God will be willing to give it to us, then we should use the few remaining days that are left us in such a manner that we are certain we shall receive this house eternal in the heavens.

#### HOLDING CHRIST UP BEFORE THE WORLD

It does not make alot of difference where we are born. How we improve our lives is what counts, when we come to the place of knowing right from wrong.

Our dear soul was born in the city of Chicago, Illinois, near the Hasting Street Mission. It was run by volunteers from Bethany Bible School.

One evening this girl and a girlfriend were crossing a street from one theater to another. Both of them belonged to the world and they loved to go to different theaters. But this time the Lord seemed to have a hand in this for their attention was attracted to a message given by some of the workers from Bethany Bible School.

They both listened. A voice within caused the one girl, Clara, to stop.

She was so deeply impressed she started to come regularly to the services at the Mission. She never missed a service. Soon the Lord touched her, her life was changed and she gave her heart to the Lord and was baptized.

She was always true to the Lord, although she had lots to endure. She felt a call from the Lord to give up a good position and work for Him, depending wholly on Him for her support. Although it was a hard step for her to take she did it willingly. She often told her

friends how the Lord has so wonderfully fulfilled His promise and was supplying all her needs. She never wanted for anything. At this Mission she did a lot of work for the Lord and in this neighborhood, among the people she grew up with, she proclaimed the wonderful Christ to all her friends. She told them of the One who was willing to die on the cross to save her soul and everyone who came to Him.

She led many to Christ in her short life. She loved each one of them and they loved her. As she worked among them she showed the Christ Life in her life. She worked till God called her Home in the summer of 1920, to serve Him in a larger Sphere.

Sister E. M. Alltus

#### READY

Webster dictionary tells us that "ready" means "prepared."

My mind goes to summertime when my son wants me to play ball with him. We often hear, "Are you ready?" What happens when we are not ready? We usually get hit with the ball or else it goes somewhere else and we have to retrieve it.

Thinking of the Spiritual side we need a READY MIND to hear what the preacher saith. Ecc. 5:1 says, "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear..." We need a READY HEART to do every good work here on earth and to love our neighbor as ourself. We need to be READY TO DISTRIBUTE to those in need; for to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it is sin.

Sarah was a pleasant teenage girl who loved the Lord and loved to take her Bible in her hand and find her place in God's house.

One spring at Annual Meeting Sarah met some girls who wanted to be friends with her but were giddy and laughed at each person who passed making great fun. Sarah thought, "These girls are not considerate of others and one day maybe they will regret all of this." Sarah thought she'd take a stroll through the grove of trees to comfort herself in a quiet place. After twenty minutes had passed the church bell rang for services to begin in five minutes. Sarah found herself sitting all alone. Sarah wondered, "Well, where are all the other girls?" The songleader was on the third song when in walked a long row of girls. Where should they sit but right beside Sarah. The girls no sooner got seated until one was primping, another one laughing and another one talking. Sarah felt so out of place being on the same bench as they. "Would they be ready to give an account to man if they had to?", Sarah wondered.

Sarah listened intently while the Elder preached a good challenging sermon. Sarah felt refreshed after the meeting. Once

Sarah and the group of girls were outdoors, Carla came to her and asked Sarah to go with them to pick up a pizza at the tavern uptown. Sarah thought this would be her chance to converse with Carla about the sermon they had just listened to. Sarah challenged Carla to stand for Christ and be a light to the world. With widened eyes Carla asked, "Is that what he talked about? I'll have to listen more closely next time." Carla too, had resolved to be a better witness to others.

Time is too precious to waste in folly. We need to be ever ready for God may come when we think not.

I came across this poem and I thought it was very fitting. May we apply it to our lives that we might be a better witness and be ready to stand for the Lord.

#### 'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS CAME

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house Not a creature was praying, not one in the house Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed, Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head. And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter, I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash

Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my head It was Jesus! returning just like He had said. And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth, I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand,
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.

The people whose name had been written with love He gathered to take to His Father above. With those who were ready He rose without a sound While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

Sister Shirley Frick 7208 Gettysburg-Webster Road Bradford, OH 45308

- Brother Paul R. Myers

## THE DOCTRINE OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

The Lord's Supper

23

	23
John 13:28	JESUS had a table spread And the disciples there did eat, They partook of the LORD'S meal After they washed each other's feet.
John 13:4	JESUS arose FROM and not AFTER The SUPPER that was prepared that eve,
John 13:26	HE said, "The one to whom I give the sop Is the one that shall ME, deceive."
	25
Rev. 19:9	The SUPPER is real and is eaten With our SPIRITUAL eye looking ahead, To the time when the true CHURCH of JESUS To the MARRIAGE SUPPER of the LAMB is bid.
	26
I John 1:3	How beautiful the BIBLE portrays The need of the fellowship of the BRETHREN,
I John 1:7	When we eat and commune together It gives us a foretaste of HEAVEN.
	27
Matt. 16:27	In the evening of the WORLD When JESUS comes to claim HIS BRIDE, HE'LL gird HIMSELF and serve us We will be at HIS right side.

### THE ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders are the highest office in the church. Except for age and experience they are of equal rank.

They are advanced from the ministry to the eldership in the local congregation where they hold their membership. The Elders of the District have the authority to ordain Elders.

The request for eldership may come from the official body or from the District Elders Meeting.

The ordination must have the approval of the membership of the local church council. A private vote is taken. A private vote is required.

The minister with his wife is called to the front of the church. There they covenant to teach, enforce and practice the doctrines of the church and maintain the principles of the Gospel. They are ordained by the laying on of the hands of the committee of two elders who have come for that purpose and have been appointed by the District Elders.

The duties of the Eldership:

- 1. Preach the Gospel and live an obedient and holy life as an example to the church.
- 2. Act as presiding elder at local council meetings.
- Constitute Standing Committees at our General Conference and have oversight of the Brotherhood at large.
- 4. Ordain other elders.
- 5. Anoint sick.
- 6. Solemnize marriages.
- 7. Officiate at Communions.
- 8. Baptize.
- 9. Enforce church rules.

Ministers and Deacons are elected by the members of the church where they hold their membership.

Usually a special council meeting is called. Each member goes privately before two Elders giving the name of their choice. If the name has the required number of votes for election, the man and his wife are called to the front of the church.

The Elder asks each if they are willing to respect and enforce the doctrines and practices of the church. When they have agreed to do this, they are commanded to kneel in front of the elders. They are installed into office by the laying on of hands and prayer by both elders.

#### Duties of Ministers:

- 1. Preach the Word.
- 2. Baptize.
- 3. Assist elders in anointing service.
- 4. Solemnize marriages.
- 5. Officiate at Communion.
- 6. Hold church councils if necessary.
- 7. Live an examplinary life before the world.

#### **Duties of Deacons:**

- 1. Attend to temporal and financial activites of the church.
- 2. Serve at Communions.
- 3. Visit the sick.
- 4. Care for the poor.
- Investigate church troubles.
- 6. Pay the church visit.
- 7. In case of necessity, assist ministry, baptize, and aid in anointing.

Sister Maxine Surbey

#### **NEWS ITEMS**

### PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

Although we cannot list any visiting ministers, we can report that we enjoyed a Lovefeast service on November 14, 1987. Nearly all members were present and received a special blessing. Bro. Henry Walker officiated.

On Sunday, Charles Good and Hazel Henderson of San Francisco were baptized. We rejoice in their addition to our fellowship. May we all grow together in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.



Satan is compared to a raging lion, going about the world seeking whom he may devour. Again, he is likened unto a bird of prey. The raven croaks and flaps his wings above corruption, and riots in luxury on the carcases of the dead; so Satan feeds his infernal appetite upon the corrupt and sinful hearts of mankind.

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

VOL. LXVI

**JANUARY 15, 1988** 

NO 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

### A PRAYER FOR THE YEAR THAT IS NEAR

Dear Master, for this coming year. Just one request I bring. I do not pray for happiness. Or any earthly thing; I do not ask to understand The way Thou leadest me: But this I ask — Teach me to do The thing that pleaseth Thee. I want to know Thy guiding voice. To walk with Thee each day. Dear Master, make me swift to hear And ready to obey: And thus the year I now begin A happy year will be. If I am seeking just to do The thing that pleaseth Thee.

Author Unknown
 Selected by Sister Ruthanna Sauerwein

#### THE HOUSE BUILDER'S GLORY

Many times we become discontented with the homes that we have. We wish they were larger or rearranged or in some way improved. We wish they could be like ones pictured in the magazines or ones that we have seen sometime.

Men have built some beautiful and well-appointed homes. With fine furniture and lush landscaping, these houses become very desirable especially if we have a tinge of discontent concerning our present home. These modern houses seem like palaces to us. Castles of the past also cause us to marvel. These large buildings, often located in picturesque settings, cause us to be envious of those who live there

Houses, mansions, palaces and castles, all cause us to marvel at how well they are built, how spacious they are. We look at them and wish we could have a home so beautiful, spacious and well-appointed.

In looking at such an attractive, desirable home we are prone to forget the men who made it possible. The idea for that house had to be conceived in someone's mind. It may not have been perfectly defined but a dream was necessary before anything was accomplished. Someone had to draw up the plans. There were many details that had to be considered when those plans were made. Then someone tried to arrange the furniture and devise the color scheme. Someone had to do the landscaping. Whether one person or many, whether a large or a small house, there had to be someone who was behind that building. The man who designed and built the house is worthy of more honor than the house itself. The house could not be if it weren't for some person's dream, plan

### THE BIBLE MONITOR

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and work.

This intelligence behind the building of a house is an illustration of the Great Masterbuilder of all creation. Just as the house must be planned and built so our world and all within it had to be created by One greater than this creation. The world could not create itself but had to have a beginning. There had to be a masterplan for everything to function as it does in an interdependent way. The masterplan means that all had to be according to the Master's plan. God is worthy of more glory than His creation. He created all in a wonderful way. Chance could never have brought all together so it would properly function. Chance could never have compounded the air we breathe. The components of our air had to be combined in a particular proportion to be properly utilized.

God could have created His whole creation instantly but He didn't. By using six days, He gave man a lesson regarding laboring. As God used six days to do His work, so man is given six days in which he should labor. God rested on the seventh day so man is taught to set aside one day to rest and worship. Also by using six days to bring His whole creation into being God was teaching man the need for patience. Man should not expect great things to happen instantly.

We notice in God's creation a progression. The earth had to be formed before plants could root and grow. The seas had to be formed before the fish and whales had a place to live. The grass was made before the cattle so there would be feed for the animals. The trees and herbs were planted first so man would have food. The animals were created to provide food and strength for man's use.

The last of God's creation was His highest creation — man. Man was not created as one of the animals. Not one of the animals was formed in the image of God but man was. This significant distinction separates man from the animals.

Just as God is triune so man was created body, soul and Spirit. Man was given an eternal soul. Animals live, pass their time here and die and their bodies go back to the earth. Man's soul is forever alive either in the bliss and beauty of Heaven or in the horrors of Hell.

The wise Masterbuilder has created this world and all in it including man. His plan is evident in the interdependency of the various elements of this earth.

There are many natural wonders in this world. But the One who made the whole earth is worthy of more honor than these great sights. His greatest creation was man who was made in His image. But as great as man's deeds are, God is worthy of more honor.

When you look at the world about you do you see God's glory? When you see your fellowmen, do you see God's glory? The

builder is worthy of more honor than the house. God is worthy of more honor than this world. God is worthy of more honor than man.

Honor Him!

## **ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

DECISIONS....

Mount Nebo was in sight of the Israelites. They had wandered through the desert for forty years. God instructed Moses to go up on the mountain and view the land that was to be given to the people. (Numb. 27:12) This mountain is over 2600 feet above sea level and allows a panoramic view of the Promised Land. Of course it could not be reached except the Jordan River be crossed. This land was where Jesus was to spend His earthly sojourn. Here He would announce that the Kingdom of God was at hand, would work miracles, heal the sick, teach and lay down the conditions for becoming His follower. Here He would show His power over death and the grave. As we would stand on this mountain, all of these thoughts might flash through our mind. A decision to cross over into this land can be made or we can stay back in the wilderness outside of the promised land. We are dared to love as Christ loved, to live as He lived. The decision is ours. Will we become a disciple? Will we follow Jesus?

Possibly we would remain at home until our father had died. We might need to stay home and plow the field. We cannot enter the land we view unless we are willing to cross over the symbolic river and make a firm commitment not to turn back or to quit. The giants of opposition will need to be conquered.

Family ties may have to be severed in order to dedicate ourselves totally to the call of discipleship. The cost may initially seem high. However, as we would consider the privilege and reward involved, we begin to realize that our cost is very small. Jesus paid it all! His atoning blood was shed for us.

When we choose the walk with Jesus, it will be because of love. To choose to cross the Jordan and follow Jesus requires great love and only by loving will the cost to us seem small. As we live on in His love, we will strive to fulfill all that He asks of us. We will purpose in our heart to put on His image.

To accept the challenge... to make the decision to commitment... we must accept the invitation and figuratively cross the Jordan.

You will remember that before the Israelites crossed into the Promised Land, God gave them specific instructions on how to proceed. God wanted His people to know who was guiding and

directing them. He wanted the people to feel their dependency and inadequacy... to recognize His perfect leadership.

We need to make a decision to detach ourselves from persons, places and things that will prevent us from giving ourselves unconditionally to the Lord. We must begin to understand that we can never do too much in our service. We must also learn to look at ourselves through Jesus' eyes and not in the eyes of comparing ourselves to others and feeling sorry that we are doing more than they.

We must die to self and give more and more to the Lord so that He may fill us fully with Himself.

Our self-centeredness, our self-will and our attachments must be put aside as we cross the Jordan by choosing to become a committed disciple. We must allow ourselves to be pruned by Jesus so that we might bear even more fruit for Him.

You are now making decisions about where you will allow the Spirit to lead you. You will decide either to observe His statutes, commandments and decrees or to harken to the voice of the world. If you cross the Jordan into deeper commitment you will be His friend. And no greater companion and friend can you have than Jesus. He will be with you always, even unto the end of the world. (Matt. 28:20)

Brother Len Wertz

## SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 15, 1928

THREE THINGS MOST NEEDED IN THE CHURCH
D. W. Hostetler

One thing the church needs most is a ministry to preach the whole gospel. It is up to the church to see that her ministers preach the Gospel. She cannot afford to tolerate one minister that preaches unsound doctrines, for it is the mission of the church to carry the message of life to the lost. Paul says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation." In other words, the gospel of Christ is the means of salvation. In I Timothy 3:15, it is said that the church of the living God is the pillar and ground of the truth. If she has the truth or is the repository of the oracles of God, it logically follows that she has been entrusted with the truth and is responsible to God for the disposition she makes of the truth.

When we read Matthew 16:19 and 18:18, and Acts 1:23-24, we see that Christ gave the church authority to call men to the ministry. It

is clear to me that the method the church had years ago was in harmony with scriptural teaching. At any rate, by this rule the church was very successful in getting the right kind of men into the ministry. It is true that when God wanted men to give His message to the people He usually called men from the common walks of life. Elijah was a man of the desert; Elisha was a man from behind the plow; Amos and Hosea were shepherds; Micah belonged to the country; He was a native of a village among the low hills between the highlands of Judah and the Philistine plain.

Jesus called men off the sea. He called Matthew from the duty of collecting taxes, and Paul from persecuting the church. He gave these men authority to go out and preach the gospel of the

Kingdom.

The real purpose of the ministry is stated by Paul: How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?

The world does not call on Christ because it is in unbelief; part of this unbelief is due to the fact that they have never heard of Christ and part of it is downright infidelity. And how shall they preach except they be sent? I think it is God through the churches who should do the sending. Paul says that the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things are beautiful. The message of the angels to the shepherds was a message of good tidings.

Again we read, Be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke. How much reproving is done in the church today? The words of the brother who said in a recent issue of the Monitor that we are going a bit too fast are still fresh on our hearts. At the Lincoln Conference an elder said to me that the time was here when we had to begin to pull the brakes. I replied, "But where is the man who has the moral courage to stand up and pull?"

To be instant in season and out of season is to preach the Gospel when conditions are favorable and when they are unfavorable. When a preacher goes to church on Sunday morning and the house is just warm enough, the singing is good, and the audience splendid, it is an easy matter to preach the gospel. But when he is driven out of the church house into a private home, a school house, barn, or grove, with all sorts of false reports going, the apostle still bids us preach the gospel.

Paul also says, Woe is me if I preach not the gospel, and if an angel preaches any other gospel than that we have preached, let him be acursed. These words make us think on the responsibility of the ministry. I once heard L. W. Teeter say that the ministry was

responsible, first to God, second to the Holy Spirit, and third to the church, for it is God through the Holy Spirit that influenced the church to call a man to the ministry. The enormity of the minister's responsibility is easily seen. If the ministry in the recent past had felt their responsibility as they should, I am sure that the innovations that came into the church would not have come. The coming of these innovations is largely due to the hireling pastor. When the salary becomes the big end of the proposition, the primary purpose of the ministry is lost sight of. I chanced to be present at a meeting recently when a church was considering two ministers, one of whom was to become their pastor. A letter from each minister was read and it was easily seen that they were trying to get all they could, while the church, in turn was trying to hire a man as cheaply as she could. The financial part was the whole of the discussion. If this is not commercializing the ministry, I do not know how it could be done.

I am not saying that the ministry should not receive due consideration concerning financial aid, but to make the filthy lucre the chief consideration is not in harmony with New Testament teachings.

The first mission of the church is preaching the Gospel, and she elects preachers and sends them to preach. "Go ye" comes to us with the same force and meaning and binding power that it did to the early church, and the preacher that has a broad vision of his calling will look over the dollar sign, will feel the weight of a soul, and have a vision of God's grace. He will then bring the message of life, regardless of the dollar.

We need not only a ministry to preach the gospel, but we also have a church that will live the whole gospel. To live the whole gospel is just as important as preaching it. So speak and so do, preach the gospel and let the church live it. The thing that counts for most in a community is the church that lives. New Testament teaching. We owe it to our God, to the church, each other, and to the community. I heard someone say, "Well, the preacher preached a good gospel sermon last Sunday, but I don't believe we need to be so exact or precise." He talked as if he believed about half of what the preacher said and he lives about half of what he believes. This attitude accounts for much of the disobedience of the past.

In the third place, we need united effort. We need every member in his place and doing his very best. The Book would have us strive together, walk by the same rule, and mind the same thing. A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. The burden of Christ's prayer was that the apostles might be united. The thing that accounts for the success of the early church is that they had all

things common and that they continued stedfast in the apostles' doctrine and prayer.

#### REST

The word "rest" appears many times in God's Word. As we grow older in this life we feel the need of more rest. I believe the psalmist David felt he needed rest when he said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove for then would I fly away and be at rest." He was looking forward to a place of undisturbed rest.

Here in this world people are often disturbed from rest. The wicked and evil ways of life are the cause of many to be disturbed from needed rest. Those who take the evil ways of life often destroy their peace and rest and also the rest of others.

God did rest the seventh day after six days of work. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls." "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Jesus said to the twelve apostles, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while:".

We need rest for the physical body's good. In the day in which we live we notice many people are indulging in sin to the extent it appears they are depriving themselves of much needed rest. We know of some who through their sins have destroyed the night's rest of others. Some day they will reap what they have sown.

In Jeremiah the Lord said, "Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." We should be temperate in all our activities of life. To have real rest we must have peace. Strife destroys rest. Peace promotes rest. If we look into the record of Christ's life we see a Man, without sin, who was often disturbed from His earthly rest. Today we see many who will not accept the good old paths that lead to peace and rest.

As we consider the life of the Apostle Paul and many other great Christian leaders, their earthly lives were often disturbed from rest and great suffering was their experience. I believe Christ, the apostles and other faithful servants of God felt the needed rest when they were punished for their services to the Lord. "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven." A permanent and eternal rest awaits the righteous when this life is over.

Most of our faithful foreparents labored hard to make a livelihood. They did not have the things we have today that makes life

easier and comfortable like we have. These words were placed on tombstones of memorial years ago, "Gone Home to rest". I believe many faithful ones experienced hard labor and trouble. When they felt they needed rest they also looked forward to the permanent rest in the Eternal City of God. "...Blessed are the dead which lie in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

We owe a life of faithful services to the Lord. "Work for the night is coming." We are to work with a will in the strength of youth and loyally stand for the kingdom of truth. We owe a life of faithful services to the Lord to be qualified for the Eternal Home of peace and rest.

In the Christian's home in Glory
There remains a land of rest
There my Saviour's gone before me,
To fulfill my soul's request.
There is rest for the weary
There is rest for the weary
There is rest for the weary
There is rest for you.
On the other side of Jordan,
In the sweet fields of Eden,
Where the tree of life is blooming,
There is rest for you.

In the rifted rock I am resting,
Safely sheltered I abide;
There no foes nor storms molest me,
While within the cleft I hide.
Now I'm resting, sweetly resting,
In the cleft once made for me
Jesus, blessed Rock of Ages,
I will hide myself in Thee.

To the promised home in glory,
To that land of blissful rest,
My Redeemer's gone before me
To prepare a mansion blest.
Yes, there is rest over Jordan's waters,
Rest for such as from sin are free;
Rest for all who come to Jesus,
Rest for you and me.

Brother J. F. Marks RD 3 Box 509 York, PA 17402

I Cor. 11:25 ....

John 6:53 .....

## THE DOCTRINE OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

#### COMMUNION

28

JESUS taught the disciples the need
Of CHRISTIAN fellowship and UNION,
In the very last week of HIS life
He established the HOLY COMMUNION.

20

True believers of CHRIST will COMMUNE
It consists of the BREAD and the CUP,
I Cor. 11:24 .... The BREAD represents HIS broken body
I Cor. 11:25 .... The cup represents HIS shed blood.

30

JESUS took bread and HE blessed it
He break it and gave to them each,
I Cor. 11:24 .... HE said, "Eat, this is MY broken body
This do in remembrance of ME."

31

"This cup is emblematic of MY blood, This do, and as oft as ye drink it You are keeping it in remembrance of me."

After the same manner HE took the cup

32

If we neglect to partake of COMMUNION
And drink not of HIS BLOOD or eat BREAD,
JESUS says, "You have no life in you"
And as result, you are SPIRITUALLY dead.

33

But, in JESUS' own words HE said
John 6:58 . . . . "Who eateth this bread shall not die,
And whosoever drinketh MY blood
John 6:56 . . . . We will dwell together on high."

34

We DUNKARDS obey the COMMANDMENTS
It's our part in working out GOD'S plan,
HE lays the rules down as HE knows
What's required for the SALVATION of man.

Brother Paul R. Myers

#### GOD'S WISH FOR YOU

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." III John 2.

Jesus wants every soul to have a better life. Remember He called you "Beloved." This is only said to someone who is very special or dear, one who you love with all your heart, someone you like to associate with, whose interest you hold very high. This show me, God is greatly concerned about us. So many times we are burdened with cares of this life, but His wish is for us to let Him help us overcome our daily struggles. Let us each one put our trust in Him and He will help us.

I was told that a woman was seen crying at a bus stop as she was waiting for a bus. A minister was standing near by. He asked her, "Is there something wrong? Can I help?" She replied, "Oh, I was just standing her waiting on my bus and thinking of my problems. I've got to go home, cook supper for my family and after that do my washing. In the morning I have to arise early enough to cook breakfast, then do the ironing, then rush to the bus to get to my job. It's the same every day. I was just wondering how long I could take this, and what is going to happen to my family."

This minister spoke to her about Jesus who hears and understands and can change all this. This lady was so surprised, she never thought to ask help of this Man of Galilee. She was trying to carry this heavy load by herself. If only she were a child of God I am sure her burdens would have been lighter. The blessed Lord will help us, He has promised to care for His own. The Bible says, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." I believe the person who understands God and gives Him his best, will be rewarded many times. So often we fail to ask for His help. James says in James 4:2, "... ye have not, because ye ask not." Why do we not ask God for the things we need? It is easy for people to go to different agencies and ask for help. Why don't they go to the giver of every perfect gift?

Let us look at the parable of the prodigal son. The older son was angry with his father because he was so generous with the prodigal son who returned home. Father said to the son, "... thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine." Luke 15:31. All we have to do is ask in faith and He will supply. Every good and perfect gift is from above. (James 1:17) If he is first in your life, and you have given Him yourself, then all your needs will be supplied.

Sister E. M. Alltus

#### BLESSED BE GOD

II Corintians 1:3, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort."

We are very concerned about a seemingly growing trend within the earthly church to rob God of His glory and majesty. In the book of Job one of his "comforters", though unjustly accusing Job, speaks great words of wisdom. In Job 11:7 to 9 we find Zophar the Naamathite saying, "Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? The measure thereof is longer than the earth and broader than the sea."

The prophet Ezekiel was given a glimpse of the glory of God. In Ezekiel 1:26-28 we read, "And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins, even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face,..." Oh that those within the earthly church would be willing to be like Ezekiel and fall upon their face at the glory and majesty of our God!

The writer of Psalms 148 expresses our feelings at this point. "Praise ye the Lord, Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights. Praise ye him, all ye angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters, that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created." It is time that we go beyond the emotional type of praise to our God and recognize who He really is! He is that great God who created the earth in six literal days and rested on the seventh. He could have created the earth in less than six literal seconds. But God does everything for a purpose. We go back to the wisdom of Zophar, "Canst thou by searching find out God?" While the efforts of archaeologists have substantiated the claims of Holy Scripture, in contrast to proving them wrong, the "wisdom" of men still clings to the error of evolution. We should expect this from those who are blinded by the darkness of sin but are greatly disturbed by those who follow this error who claim to be living in the light of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul brings us to God's greatest revelation of Himself in our

opening verse. Here is one of the greatest mysteries of all the ages and yet the greatest truth that has ever been revealed to mankind. Although Paul does not go into detail in this portion of scripture. we turn to a familiar verse to establish the great mystery behind this revelation. John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Who can fully explain how God can be the Father of God? Yet John 1:1 is clearly shown to refer to our Lord Jesus Christ. We must go beyond God the Creator, as important as this is, to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do not have to wait until Christmas to proclaim the importance of the virgin birth! After we establish the entrance of Jesus Christ into the world as born of a woman we can return to creation to show that He is God. Colossians 1:16, "For by him (Jesus Christ) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:" Blessed be God the Father and God the Son!

Paul goes on to say He is the Father of mercies. Oh what a merciful God we serve. The writer of Psalms 136 states over and over again, "for his mercy endureth forever." If we had to depend only on God's righteousness we would all end up in the pit of Hell. But God is merciful towards those who are truly repentant and strive to live a holy life. As the song writer so well expressed it,

Mercy there was great and grace was free; Pardon there was multiplied to me; There my burdened soul found liberty, At Calvary.

Paul ends by telling us that He is the God of all comfort. Perhaps this explains Jesus' words in John 14:16, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you ANOTHER Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." Here again we enter into the mystery of the Holy Trinity. God, the Holy Spirit, is sent as another Comforter. This does not mean that God the Father ceases to exist or act in the lives of man. Once again we return to the wisdom of Zophar, "What canst thou know?" It is time we quit trying to EXPLAIN God and start WORSHIPPING Him. We gladly accept the comfort that God provides for us. This is a lesson within itself that we have previously written on and may very well again. But may God never allow us to be comfortable in taking away His glory and majesty!

In the verse previous to our opening verse Paul calls God "our Father." He is, of course, speaking to the Saints at Corinth. If you desire God to be your Father you must accept salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Then your home will be in Heaven with Him, if you continue in the faith. Let us all truly say "Blessed

be God" by our actions as well as by our words.

James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

#### THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Sealed With the Holy Spirit
J. H. Moore

Every child of God, on being born into the kingdom, and adopted into the family of God on earth, is "sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:13). Read this verse carefully: "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." Here we have trusting, hearing the Word, and believing, followed by the sealing with the Spirit. The term, "after that ye believed," includes the duties for which saving faith calls.

A little farther on, in the same epistle, Paul refers to this sealing the second time, saying: "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." (Eph. 4:30) From these two citations, studied in connection with the subjects, so far treated, we learn that every true, penitent believer, who puts on Christ Jesus in baptism, and receives the gift of the Holy Spirit, is by that same Spirit sealed. That is, the seal of God, through the Spirit, is placed on every man and every woman born from above. God knows his spiritual children; they have the divine seal, and, remaining loyal to that seal, no one shall ever be able to pluck them out of the Father's hands.

It is a mistake to regard baptism as the seal of the kingdom. It is never so designated in the New Testament. It is a visible part of the initiatory rite into the kingdom, being the visible part of the new birth, but it is not a seal. Man may administer baptism, but he is never permitted to handle the seal. God through the Spirit, does the sealing, and he never makes a mistake. If all those who enter the church could be led to realize what it means to be a sealed child of God, — sealed with the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption, we would have a different church from what we now have.



### **NEWS ITEMS**

### SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation appreciated Evangelist Brother and Sister Paul Hartz of Palmyra, Pennsylvania coming into our community and laboring with us in revival, August 14 through 23. He preached eleven spiritual, uplifting sermons. Our annual Lovefeast service was observed Saturday evening, August 22, and our fellowship lunch was on Sunday after church.

One young sister was received into fellowship by Christian baptism on Saturday afternoon.

We appreciated all visitors both those affiliated with our denomination, and also those that were not and we wish to thank all for coming and encouraging us as we are few in numbers. We solicit your prayers.

Sister Jennifer Snyder, Cor.

#### THANK YOU

I wish to thank each of you for remembering me with cards and gifts. May God bless each of you for the same.

Yours in Christian Love, D. Paul Reed

## SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

We enjoyed another lovefeast in November with a very pleasant Fall day. It was a day of fellowship and of keeping God's ordinances. We thank all who came to share, especially the visiting ministers, Brethren: Frank Shaffer, Virgil Leatherman, Paul Hartz, Rudy Shaffer, Kenneth Wilkerson, and Paul Stump, who officiated in the evening.

In August we had the privilege of enjoying another Revival Meeting. Our evangelist, Bro. Jan Heisey, gave us many inspiring and challenging messages from God's Word. We were happy Bro. Jan and Sis. Freda could be with us for the two weeks. May God bless them and their family as they labor for the Lord.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

.....

Guilty persons are always suspicious.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1988

February 7 - Noah and the Ark - Genesis 6:9-22, 7:1-6.

- 1. Why did God send the flood? v. 12
- 2. What "Ark" has God provided for us?

February 14 - The Flood - Genesis 7:6-24, 8:1-19.

- 1. How was the earth flooded? Gen. 7:11.
- 2. How deep was the water? v. 20.

February 21 - The Rainbow - Genesis 8:20-22, 9:1-17.

- 1. What promise is given in verse 22?
- 2. Does verse 6 still apply today?

February 28 - Noah's Prophecy; Descendants of Noah - Genesis 9:18-28, 10:1-32.

- 1. Compare the effect of alcohol then and now.
- 2. What group of people did Shem become the ancestor of? Ham? Japeth?

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1988

February 7 - The Two Ways - Matt. 7:13-21, I John 4:4-6.

- 1. Is popularity a sign of God's approval?
- 2. Can we be deceived? Prov. 14:12.

February 14 - Spiritual Plants - Matt. 15:13-20, John 15:2-6.

- 1. How do we abide in the Vine?
- 2. Where should we be planted? Psalms 92:13.

February 21 - Feeding Four Thousand - Matt. 15:30-39, Mark 8:1-9.

- 1. How many "loaves" do we have to share?
- 2. Have we given Jesus our "loaves"?

February 28 - Kindness - Romans 12:9-10, I Cor. 13:4, Eph. 4:31-32, Col. 3:12-17.

- 1. How does Christ view our deeds? Matt. 25:40.
- 2. How does kindness effect our witness?

Paul Stump 10340 N. Diamond Mill Union, OH 45322

(USPS 054-780)

# **BIBLE MONITOR**

VOL. LXVI

**FEBRUARY 1, 1988** 

NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

### FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

If we live and walk in the Spirit, We'll sow seeds of righteousness That will bear fruits everlasting That only our Lord can bless.

We'll want to sow the best of seeds Such as love, and joy, and peace, While long and patient endurance Of offence is one of these.

We'll be gentle, and good, and kind, And in meekness use moderation. These seeds sown while here on earth Can bring us our salvation.

We'll have laid up many treasures
For our glorious home up above.
Our hopes will then be fulfilled
Through our faith, and truth, and love.

- Sister Irene Stout R. 1 Box 160 Wabash, IN 46992

### ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH

There have been many train wrecks and derailments because someone had been asleep at the switch. The switching device in the early days of railroading was dependent upon men who would physically turn it the direction the train was to go. Today the switch can be changed by remote control. In either case men are responsible for the switch being turned the correct way. If the switch is turned the wrong way the oncoming train may be turned into a track where there is a parked train or where the track is torn up. In either case there may well be disaster ahead because someone did not change the switch correctly. The one who was responsible for the correct operation of the switch may have been physically or at least mentally asleep.

Sleep is needful and good at its proper time but it can be dangerous when wakefulness is required. The one in a position of responsibility dare not be asleep while of duty. While he may not face physical danger if he falls asleep, yet his sleepiness may endanger many others.

The switch allows the train to go either of two ways. By being switched from one track to another the train can be put on a siding, can be directed to the place where it will be loaded or unloaded or it can be sent to a destination which is in a different direction than the main track goes.

In Spiritual things the Church acts as a switch. By proclamation of the Gospel, she can switch lives that are headed for ruin unto the track that heads for Glory. The people of the world are going along the main track that is headed for Spiritual destruction. Unless the switch is thrown and their course is diverted they will end up being

## THE BIBLE MONITOR

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eternally separated from God.

The Church's responsibility is to provide the opportunity that souls might be switched from the destructive main track that is the broad and easy way of the world. The Church must be alert to its duty. It dare not be asleep at the switch.

The Church must be careful how the switch is set. The railroad engineer looks for the lights that will tell him which direction the switch is set. The Church must give a clear notice of its doctrine and manner of life. If the teachings of the Church and its morals and daily living are hidden, those rushing to destruction on the main track will be unable to see the switch needed in their lives. In the darkness of the world a clear light is needed to set off that darkness and to show the right way. If the witness of the Church is marred that light will be dimmed or even non-existent.

The Church unconcerned about her duty to the lost is asleep at the switch. Being asleep, the switch will be turned in the wrong direction and the lost will continue towards destruction. If the Church provides no clear cut doctrine those on the main track will be unable to see the necessary changes needed in their lives. If the Church provides a false doctrine she will lead them astray and they will be just as lost as if there had never been a switch.

The switch puts the train on a different track. The Church must guide her members into a different style of living. While Satan would probably wish that no switch were available yet he many times uses the switch set wrong to derail those who have some desire to change their lives for the better. He would rather use misdirection to ruin people than to have them escape from him.

The Church is composed of all the members under the Headship of Christ. The Church can only do what her members do. Each individual is responsible for setting the switch. Each individual is responsible for the Church's light being clear and bright. Each individual is responsible that his living is in line with the direction of the Church, so a consistent light is set before the world. If there is no difference between the lives of the members and the world, how will those of the world know where to turn off? The life of each member must show a vital piety or there will be nothing to draw the destruction-bound traveler from his doomed journey.

Each one has a responsibility to point out the switch that must be made by those passing by. But that switch can be obscured if either the teaching or living of the Church is not clear and bright. The light of the Church is as dim or bright as the light of her members. If the Church's members are not awake many will be lost.

Are you awake or asleep at the switch?

#### **OBITUARY**

#### RONALD LAYTON HANDSAKER

Brother Ronald Layton Handsaker was born in Fargo, North Dakota on August 3, 1914. Ronald, the adopted son of J. Guy and Innie Handsaker, was raised on the "Home Place" farm just outside of Nevada, Iowa. The farm location gave him opportunity to meet Mildred Arletta Hankins of Fernald, Iowa and on September 29, 1935 they were united in marriage. To this union two sons were brought forth, Richard Layton and Billy Joe.

Ronald lived on the "North Place" farm for several years until moving to Colo, Iowa for three years, then on to Dallas Center for two years and finally to Woodward, Iowa for ten years, where he was engaged in the gasoline farm delivery service with Appenzeller Oil Company. Following the death of his wife, Mildred on April 13, 1980, Ronald and Sister Sadie Hoffiditz were married on August 1, 1981 and resided at 707 Northview Drive in Dallas Center, Iowa until his death on October 20, 1987.

For the past several years, Ronald and Sadie spent their time in Mercedes, Texas during the winter months and the summer months were spent in Dallas Center caring for his beloved flowers and gardens.

Ronald is survived by his wife, Sadie of Dallas Center; two sons: Richard of Richmond, Texas, and Billy Joe of Des Moines, Iowa, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Ronald was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church in Dallas Center, Iowa. He felt very strongly about God and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and practiced His Word every day. It was his hope his children and their children would follow through with his wishes and they too share in God's joy and forgiveness of sins.

Funeral services were held October 23, 1987 at the Dallas Center Dunkard Brethren Church conducted by Brother James Meyers and Pastor Harold E. Smith of the Church of the Brethren. Interment was in Oak Grove Cemetery in Nevada, Iowa.

### **NEWS ITEMS**

### TRUSTEE BOARD FUNDS NEARLY DEPLETED

An encouragement to Benevolence; — Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. The Psalmist speaks of those that fear the Lord, that delight greatly in his commandments: "He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth forever." Ps. 112. Paul commends the Corinthians for their

generosity and sets forth proper rules for giving, II Cor. 9:6-15; and concludes, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

We are taking this means of informing you of the monetary needs of the Church. The Publication Board is needing approximately \$15,000 for printing another supply of Hymnals; the Mission Board has needed to draw about \$1,500 a month from the Trustee Board; and our 1988 General Conference Expense needs of maybe \$20,000 to \$25,000 is fast approaching. Our present available Bank Balance is about \$7,000. The few that have been informed of the need have responded commendably and we trust the Lord that all who can will again rise to the need as you did last year. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." I Cor. 13:13.

Elder Ray R. Reed, Secretary



An old writer says, "Suppose a little bird is set to remove this globe by taking from it one grain of sand at a time, and to come only once in a thousand years. She takes her first grain, and away she flies on her long and weary course. When a thousand years have rolled away, she comes panting back for one more grain of sand; and this globe is again lessened by just one grain of its all but countless sands. So the work goes on. The little bird will one day have finished her task, and the last sand will have been taken away; but even then Eternity will have only begun. Its sands are never to be exhausted."



A traveler once asserted to a Syrian shepherd that the sheep knew the dress of their master, not his voice. The shepherd, on the other hand, maintained it was the voice they knew. To settle the dispute, he and the traveler exchanged dresses, and went among the sheep. The traveler in the shepherd's dress called on the sheep and tried to lead them, but "they knew not his voice," and never moved. On the other hand, they ran at once at the call of their owner, though thus disguised.

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#### EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

#### PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone. from the Boards listed:

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The following tracts are free:

Why Triune Baptism

Plain Dressing

Which is the Right Church?

The Service of Feet Washing as a

Religious Rite

What Shall I Do With The

Commandments of Jesus?

Daily Reminder

The Lord's Supper

The Doctrine of the Prayer Veil

The Brethren's Card

Do You Want Salvation?

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The Sabbath - Its Origin and

Observance

PUBLICATION BOARD

Bible Monitor (semi-monthly)

\$2.00 per year in advance.

Brethren Hymnal (heavy back)

\$6.75 ea. \$80.00 doz. Plus Postage Church Manual \$ .30

The Bible Outline \$ .45; \$5.10 doz.

The Old Testament History

\$ .55: \$6.00 doz.

The New Testament History

\$ .60: \$6.50 doz.

No charge for the following:

Polity Booklet

Instructions for Applicants Baptismal Certificate Blanks

Church Letter Blanks

Credential Blanks

Minutes of General Conference in

One Volume

\$4.25 ea. plus \$ .35 postage each.

#### SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the printer.

- 1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.
- 2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.
- 3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence which is difficult to punctuate, and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.
- 4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations, into paragraphs and set these apart from the rest of the article, by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters.
- 5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words as "thot" for thought, "2" for two; "&" for and, etc.
- 6. Write or typewrite on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet. leave at least one inch margin on each side of the sheet.
- 7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references, please copy the wording and the punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter and verse, "Jesus wept." John 11:35.
- 8. Frequent mistakes we find: beleive for believe: recieve for receive: judgement for judgment; ore for or; & for and.

- 9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and the publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.
- 10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your Editor should have this item at least 30 days prior to the date of the issue.
- 11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as Local Sunday School officers, District meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items "In Memoriam."
  - 12. Read these and then write.

# FIXED COMMUNION DATES

First Sat. Feb. - Winterhaven, CA Third Sat. March - Quinter, KA First Sat. April - Dallas Center, IA Fourth Sat. April - Pleasant Home, CA Last Sat. April - Grandview, MO Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA Third Sat. May - Dayton, VA Third Sat. May - West Fulton, OH Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA Sat. before First Sun. Aug. - Broadwater Chapel, MD Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. - Swallow Falls, MD First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, MD Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, VA Third Sun. Oct. - Lititz, PA Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, OH Last Sun. Oct. - Bethel, PA First Sat. Nov. - Newberg, OR First Sun. Nov. - Shrewsbury, PA Second Sat. Nov. - Pleasant Home, CA

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#### GOSSIP, BOTH VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters, is contrary to the Scripture and it should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about such matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfer in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is, the taking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members who were not present or to outsiders, is irregular and un-Christian and should not be indulged in.

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# LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation is presently worshipping at the school building located five miles east of Bethel, one mile south of Interstate 78, exit 6 on route 419.

Milbach House, located halfway between Kleinfeltersville and Newmanstown, in Lebanon Co. or halfway between Schafferstown and Womeisdorf, Pennsylvania.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MD.

From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on National Freeway #48, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn left or south under freeway three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road 3.8 miles, left on Westernport Road 3.8 miles, right on Savage Road 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, W. Va. area, travel east on National Freeway #48 to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn right three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route #50 take U.S. Rt. #220 north, take Maryland Rt. #135 at McCoole (just north of Keyser, W. Va.) seven miles to Bloomington, Maryland. Turn right on Savage River Road, 12½ miles to church on right.

#### CLEARVILLE, PA.

Ward's Church, located 14 miles southwest of Everett, Pa., all improved roads. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville, Pa. At Clearville straight ahead South, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right, 1½ miles, then turn right at fork. Ward's Church is five miles on the left.

#### DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn north off Rt. 44 on to County Rd. R16 at west edge of city. The church is ¾ mile north on the west side of the road

#### DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #63. Go to fourth stop light, Rt. 42, turn left to Dayton, (3 miles) right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

#### ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Rt. 440 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

#### GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County No. 130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana #15 to Goshen, turn west at Police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., one block turn left on W. Clinton St. One mile to Green Rd., right one block and church is located on east side of road.

#### GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1½ miles south to 139th St., turn west, go to the second street and turn south one block.

#### LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second crossroads, turn right. The brick church is on the right.

#### MECHANICSBURG, PA. CUMBERLAND CO.

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Rt. 114 into East and West, and by Rt. 641 into North and South. The church is located on West Keller St., or corner of Keller and Washington St., four blocks west of Market St. or Route 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle interchange, Rt. 11 will lead east to Rt. 114. Leaving the Turnpike at Gettysburg interchange, Rt. 16 will lead west to Rt. 114.

#### McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colo., on U.S. #50 and then north one mile.

#### MOUNTAINDALE, MD.

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountaindale, Md., from east go through town to west on road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses #15, half mile west of Lewistown and six miles south of Thurmont.

#### PLEASANT HOME, CA.

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Ave., Modesto, California. The Church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: From the South on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to

the right and stay on Briggsmore Ave. to Claus Road (approximately six miles), turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, left on Sharon Ave. Church is on the left. Coming from the North on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

#### PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt. 20 alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Rte. 15 and U.S. Route 20 alternate.

#### PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five miles to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The Church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

#### NEWBERG, OREGON

Highway 99W enters Newberg in east-west direction. Those entering from the east on First St., go to third stoplight, turn right on N. Main. Go four blocks to the church at corner of N. Main and Franklin Sts. Entering from the west, turn left at first stop light onto N. Main and go four blocks to the corner of Main and Franklin Sts.

#### ORION, OHIO

Located in northeastern Ohio, on Orion Road, one fourth mile west of State Rt. 8 at a point six miles north of Canton or one and one-half miles north of North Canton and 17 miles south of Akron.

#### QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

#### WAYNESBORO, PA.

Church is located in west side of town, on corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Ave., go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

#### SHREWSBURY, PA.

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt. 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

#### SWALLOW FALLS, MD.

Traveling U.S. Rt. 50, turn north at Red house, half way between Clarksburg and Winchester, follow Rt. 219 to Oakland, there turn left on county road 20. The church is on Rt. 20, about nine miles north of Oakland. Traveling U.S. Rt. 40, turn south onto Rt. 219, at Keyser Ridge, follow Rt. 219 about four miles past Deep Great Lake, turn right on county road 20 at a store. The church is one and one-half miles Swallow Falls Park.

#### WALNUT GROVE, MD.

About midway between Frederick, Md. and Hanover, Pa. One-fourth mile east on Rt. 194, at an intersection three miles north of Tanevtown. Md.

#### W. FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Rt. 20 alternate, three and one-half miles west of junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. Rt. 20 alternate.

#### WINTERHAVEN, CA

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north of Beaumont on Beaumont Ave., go right on Brookside (marked with a Highland Springs sign) to Jonathan, left to Lincoln and right to the church.

#### MISSIONS

CLEARVILLE, PA. - In South Central Pennsylvania, about half-way between Everett on Rt. 30 and Piney Grove on Rt. 40. About six miles south of Clearville, Pa., along hard road a little east of Rt. 26. Services second, fourth and fifth Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

HART, MI - From Muskegon go north on Route 31 to Hart exit. Go left from freeway about 1½ miles to tee in road, turn right, go approximately ½ mile to church on left side of road.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION Located southwest of Cuba, New

Mexico, 23 miles. Turn on State Highway 197 in Cuba. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles when you will take a paved road to the left. A mission sign marks the junction. Proceed 3 miles to the mission. Present personnel includes David and Mildred Skiles: Paul and Sarah Skiles; Dean Shaffer; Carolyn Carpenter; Cynthia Chupp; Mary Alice Skiles and Renita Trujillo; Jill Nell; Elaine Yohe and Janelle Trujillo. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: R. 2 Box 8, Cuba, New Mexico 87013; Phone - 505-731-2292. Please contact for further information.

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

VOL. LXVI

**FEBRUARY 15, 1988** 

NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

#### THE FALLING LEAVES

See the leaves around us falling, Dry and withered, to the ground, Thus to thoughtless mortals calling, In a sad and solemn sound —

"Youth, on length of days presuming, Who the paths of pleasure tread, View us, late in beauty blooming, Numbering now among the dead.

"What tho' yet no losses grieve you — Gay with health and many a grace; Let not cloudless skies deceive you; Summer gives the autumn place."

On the tree of life's eternal Let our highest hopes be stayed: This alone, forever vernal, Bears a leaf that shall not fade.

- George Horne

#### TREES

God has provided men with many blessings through His creation of trees. When He put trees upon the newly created earth he was providing for yet uncreated man many good and enjoyable things.

Trees have many different shapes, various leaf patterns and produce many kinds of fruits. The trees which do not produce fruit also provide good things for men. Men who have labored by the sweat of their brows certainly appreciate the shade cast by a large tree. Houses are cooler and more comfortable if there are trees to shade it. Trees can also provide protection from winds or snow. When a tree is no longer needed or is dead it can be cut down, cut up and made into fuel. Trees may also be made into lumber plus many other products. Trees provide oxygen to return to the atmosphere thus serving as a purifier for the air about us.

Probably the first product of trees we think of are the many different kinds of fruits and nuts. What is produced varies from one geographical area to another. There is a great variety of fruits and nuts produced across our country and around the world. What is novel to the traveler is commonplace to those who live there.

Fresh fruits especially provide many healthful nutrients, even canned and frozen fruits provide a portion of those good things. The wide variety of fruits grown provides men with some kind of fruit that will suit their tastes.

Fruitful trees are valuable and desirable. Not only providing their fruits for men's enjoyment but when removed from the orchard their firewood can provide an aroma not produced by the wood of other trees.

#### THE BIBLE MONITOR

**FEBRUARY 15, 1988** 

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Disease and other conditions may afflict the trees, even in their prime. Their leaves and branches may wither and finally die. Their roots may be affected by some disease within the soil or by rodents that chew upon the succulent roots. Fire and frost may also destroy once bountiful trees. These trees are valuable when productive but are cumbersome when they are diseased and dead.

There are many parables and illustrations throughout the Bible based upon the fruit tree. Every one of these lessons presents the need for fruit being produced if the trees are to be preserved. Unfruitful trees are to be taken out and burned. Christians are to be like fruitful trees lest they also be removed and destroyed. Once the tree is removed from the ground it can no longer produce fruit. If fruitful Christians are removed from the scene of action they have lost their opportunity for fruitfulness.

An unproductive tree is cumbersome to the ground, taking up space that could be better used by another tree. Water and nutrients are not used wisely if given to the unproductive. Unproductive Christians are like the fig tree Jesus spoke of. It was given ample opportunity to produce but if it continued to fail it would be removed. Christians must be productive else they will be removed. If Christians are not bringing forth the fruit desired by the Master, they are cumbering the ground and wasting the resources given them.

What kind of fruit does the Master expect? Each tree brings forth its own particular fruit. Each Christian must produce his own kind of fruit.

The fruit produced in the Christian's life will be the result of the Holy Spirit's work within. Just as the sap flows from root throughout the tree's system of branches, limbs and twigs, unseen, so the Spirit, though unseen, will produce within the willing Christian, fruit. This fruit will be manifested before others in various good deeds that will bring honor and glory to God.

All the fruit on a tree does not usually ripen at one time. It will ripen during a period of several days. This way the fruit may be more useful since it does not all come at once. The Christian will not at once produce all the fruits of the Spirit but will ripen each one as effort is expended. Each Christian has a different personality so some of the fruits will ripen more easily for one than for another but all of them need to be cultivated.

Unproductive Christians are slipping backward into mortal danger. They will learn that having failed to use their opportunities, they will be uprooted and set aside.

The need for fruitful Christian lives should be evident to each of us. It should be our desire to be as fruitful as possible. The fruit trees that produce the most and highest quality fruit are the ones

most honored and of highest value. Christians can become highly valued and prized as they produce the fruit of the Spirit.

We need to examine our lives to see what manner of fruit we are producing. Are we producing any? Are we producing good, high quality fruit? Or are we only producing low-quality withered fruit that barely gets by?

God deserves the very best from each of us. Are you producing the fruit He desires?

#### THE UNFORGIVING HEART

An unforgiving heart or spirit is like poison to our souls. It eats away at us until it destroys us and others. It does more harm than can be measured, because the ripple effect goes on and on. Such a spirit may do more harm than the original mistake, because Satan can use it as a wedge. He will use it to drive people apart and destroy relationships, and he will also use it to bring discouragement and hopelessness.

Whenever we don't forgive, we are holding a grudge. This means we are holding something against another person. We want this person to be constantly reminded of his or her mistake. We actually consider this person to be unworthy of our forgiveness, thereby justifying our unforgiving spirit. We also justify ourselves by saying the deed is too bad to forgive. Or, we hold a grudge because we are too proud to admit we have been wrong.

Forgiving may not be easy, but it is a necessity, not an option. Holding something against another hinders our own spiritual lives. In the Lord's prayer, we ask God to forgive us as we forgive others. Thus, if we don't forgive, we will not be forgiven. It is a barrier, and we are the only ones who can remove it by forgiving others so God can forgive us.

"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in Heaven forgive your trespasses." Mark 11:25-26. If you have anything against anyone, now is the time to forgive it and get it out of the way. Some situations are harder to cope with, such as those who won't acknowledge their wrongs or those who cause our loved ones alot of trouble. But without exception, personal or not, we must forgive even those.

When we fail, if we're not forgiven, we think there's no use to try anymore. It is a rather hopeless situation. But with forgiveness comes encouragement and renewed hope and purpose. Where hope is, the heart is uplifted and ready to try again. Failure no

longer overwhelms us, but we will seek Jesus and ask Him for strength to go on. Forgiveness brings healing to our souls and relationships, and gives us greater protection from Satan's onslaughts.

Satan delights in seeing us fall. He delights in seeing us become discouraged. He delights in our holier-than-thou attitudes concerning others mistakes, but he trembles when we are on our knees. He is at a disadvantage when we pray and receive God's forgiveness. He is also at a disadvantage when we forgive each other, for there is a greater strength in the unity which forgiveness makes possible.

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph. 4:31-32. As long as we hold anger, bitterness and harse words in our hearts, we can't forgive. We won't have the joy of the Lord in our hearts either. But if we forgive, we'll have both peace and joy.

All of us need forgiveness at some time or other, both from God and man. To refuse to forgive the wrongs of our fellowman is to deny our own need for God's forgiveness and spiritual healing. This is the deepest need of our hearts. If it were not, Jesus would not have had to die for us. Sin made a barrier between us and God. Jesus received the death penalty in our behalf, so we could be forgiven and have this barrier removed. If God had an unforgiving heart, we would just die in our sins.

"Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" Matt. 18:21. Peter asked this question of Jesus. He, like us, no doubt had a little problem forgiving. Peter thought there should be a limit of his responsibility, a time when he no longer needed to forgive. But Jesus replied, "I say not unto thee, Until seven times; but, Until seventy times seven." (18:22) Peter probably thought, "Four hundred ninety times? Who could ever do that? Certainly not me!"

Peter couldn't do this on his own and neither can we. But unlimited, loving forgiveness is possible in Jesus' strength. No one deserves this much forgiveness, but Jesus knew we would need it. This is the kind of forgiveness which Jesus gives us, the kind which heals hearts and relationships. It restores us to fellowship with God and each other. Do you have an unforgiving heart? Is it easy to hold a grudge, or easier to forgive? If it is easier to hold a grudge, seek Jesus' help now. He alone can give you a forgiving heart.

#### WHAT MAKES A PERSON CHRISTIAN?

I suppose if this question were asked of some conservative Christians, they would answer that a person needs to be baptized, live separately from the world, and observe the ordinances. Now, these are all good things, and no conservative Christian would dispute them. However, I challenge the idea that these things are what makes a person Christian. In fact, I would go so far as to say that these ideas are an extremely subtle and deadly heresy. This is the one threat that can destroy spirituality, destroy our fellowship, and tear down the Kingdom of God. You are probably wondering by now how I will get myself off this limb that I'm out on. Let me explain what I mean.

We need to re-examine what it is, when you really get down to it, that makes a person Christian. Can it be baptism that makes the difference? Many have been baptized, and after their baptism have shown by their lives that there was no change of heart. Baptism is not enough. Also, there have been those who have observed all of the ordinances, and all of the guidelines of separation from the world, and yet have shown by their daily lives that they never experienced a birth from above. There doubtlessly will be people in Hell who practiced all of these teachings, BECAUSE THEY WERE NEVER CONVERTED. I do not presume to judge anyone, for God alone knows our hearts, but clearly it is possible to do all of these things, and still not be a Christian. They are not enough.

So, what is it that makes a person Christian? A Christian is anyone who has the Spirit of Christ within. THIS is the one thing that makes a difference, and it is the ONLY thing that makes an eternal difference. We can observe every jot and tittle, just like the Pharisees, but if we do not have the Spirit of the Living God within, and if we are not getting to know and love Him more and more, then we will come up empty on the Day of Judgment. He will say, "I never knew you," and we too will see on that Day that we never knew nor loved Him. This is where we must start if we will be His followers. Of course, His true followers do obey His commands.

May I be very clear: I believe in the historic Biblical truths that our church has defended. I believe in triune immersion, in separation from worldliness, and in the ordinances that the church has taught. My point is just this: All of these things are utterly dead and worthless unless the Spirit of God is within us, for He, and He alone gives life.

At the beginning I stated that it was a dangerous heresy to believe that the ordinances and separation were what made us Christian. I do believe that all the Bible must be taught. The danger, however, is when people are baptized, live separate lives,

and observe the ordinances, but NEVER EXPERIENCE CHRIST WITHIN, for they are not even aware that anything deeper exists! FOR SHAME that we should fall so far from the pure Gospel of Christ, that we should think that our meager works are all that God wants. He wants our works, but more than that, He wants our hearts to live in and love and transform. Let's obey all of His commands, but more than that, let's give Him our hearts as a pure resting place.

People, we must awake! Will we go on living our quiet, peaceful lives while the world all around us is living on the very brink of an eternal Hell? God have mercy on us if we continue to sleep. Our neighbors will arise at the Judgment and scream their condemnation at us for never giving them a chance to eternal life. Our secular friends and fellow workers will ask why we never bothered. Do we care at all? Do we truly believe that there is an eternal Hell? Do we ACT like we believe our unsaved friends will go there if we don't help them? Whatever we do, we must never think that we will attract anyone by dry, dead works. When the Spirit lives His Divine Life through us, He will attract and call sinners to Himself.

Judgment must first begin with the House of God, and He will purge His people severely. Think about your own life. Chances are, that if you are reading this, you have been following the teachings of the Bible. But, let me ask, is Jesus real to you every day, or do you just observe the ordinances? There will be absolutely no doubt if He did indeed come to live in your heart. It is not just a happy, warm feeling. When He enters your heart, you will be aware of something that you have never experienced before. What about when you pray? Do you honestly have a real awareness of the presence of the Lord? If not, then you need to start asking God to search your heart, and to reveal Himself to you. When a person really begins to search for God, it sometimes seems that it must be impossible to know Him. Just remember, there is nothing that He wants more than to make Himself real to searching hearts.

I urge you to examine your heart here, now. The Day will soon come when He will search every heart at His Judgment Seat. It would be far better to see now that your heart is not right, and be saved, than to be found waiting on that awesome Day.

Brother Dean Shaffer Route 2 Box 8 Cuba, NM 87013



#### **ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

"real love"

We are living in an age when we see very little "real love" expressed and shown to other members of the Body of Christ. We can tolerate others as long as everything seems to be going along smoothly but we don't seem to be able to tolerate weakness in others and are not anxious to share in the problems of their lives.

What is "real love" and how do we pursue it? Does real Christian love give you twitchiness in your stomach like starry-eyed infatuation? What is God's kind of love and how do we differentiate it from what SEEMS to be love?

First of all, REAL LOVE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE. If you have a special relationship with others, it is probably because you care enough to know quite a bit about them. Love deepens as knowledge of the other person grows and many aspects of their personality attracts you. Of brothers and sisters in the church for whom you pray, what do you really know about them, their characteristics and traits? Now, I am not talking of negatives. This is what often enters our mind first and that is not love at all. It is just negative criticism. As you get to know someone's weaknesses and challenges as well as their strong points, you better have an affinity for their person... their soul, if you will.

A person who experiences "real love" is not afraid to admit his own shortcomings or those of the other person. You might be able to say, "I am aware of your weakness and I love you in spite of it." Acceptance is always important in serious Christian relationships. There must be unconditional commitment to those whom we call fellow Christians.

REAL LOVE IS A RESPONSE TO THE TOTAL PERSON. "Agape" love is not a sensual love as is "eros" but it is brotherly love as "philo," under the umbrella of the love of Jesus Christ, "agape." "Eros" love is more a response to a body and a face rather than to a total person, complete with mind, emotion and personality. It is a physical kind of attraction. Our love has to be unconditional and directed toward the total person. It has to endure the understanding that the other person is "in process" of achieving what God wants him or her to be. It is not trying to control the other person but is reaching out in willingness to give when the person you love is unwilling or unable to reciprocate that love. God so loved the world that he gave... and gave... and still gives.

REAL LOVE EDIFIES. There is a freedom there and an incredible sensitivity to the needs of the other person. It desires to see improvement and enlightenment in others. It builds and

doesn't tear down.

REAL LOVE MAKES WISE CHOICES. It takes subjective feelings and puts them into objective actions. You become more keenly aware of the need to live a life of commitment and to better mesh with the values and personalities of other members of the church. Too many times we choose to pursue or reject relationships on the basis of ethnic, socio-economic or educational similarities or differences. Our temperaments might be varied but we can choose not to let these differences fragment our relationships.

REAL LOVE SELECTS WISE VALUES. The values and goals that we have will illustrate our relationship with God and with others. There can never be compromise to the commitment to the other members of the Body which we "attached" to when we became a part of it. Our values should be in harmony with those which are taught in God's Word and also those which are determined in church doctrine. Christ is the central Value of your life. Other things will revolve around Him. Work, friends, family, money, recreation... all of these are only spokes in the Hub of our wheel of which Jesus Christ is the center.

REAL LOVE SHOWS A FUSING OF MINDS. It shows that we hold the same things in importance... those things what are also important to the Lord. It shows a oneness of lifestyle and possibly even Christian grooming. It accepts and is completed by the lives of other Godly people.

Do you have "REAL LOVE?" Pray that God will give you a special desire to grow in love as you grow in His grace. Pray that He will help you to revise your feelings as He works His will and His way in your life. Seek the Lord in the matter of love and desire to live within His will. And pray! Pray that God will show you paths of communication; pray that He will show you guidance in caring; pray that He will give you hope as you better support and are supported by brothers and sisters. Seek out counsel from God's Word and look for "green lights" which will encourage and reassure you in your relationships. Above all, guard your heart from the evil thinking and the self promotion of our day. The Christian experience is an adventure that begins with baptism and ends at the graveside. In between there is laughter, tears, serious thought and ecstasy. As the Lord has brought us together as believers, so He will see us through.

Brother Len Wertz



## THE DOCTRINE OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

#### HOLY KISS

35

Romans 16:16 .... In GOD'S WORD we're taught to love
This is something we should not miss,
Five times we read in the GOOD BOOK
To greet one another with an HOLY KISS

36

The KISS is a way to express our love
Like a mother caresses her children,
When MEMBERS of the CHURCH meet one another
SISTERS greet SISTERS and BRETHREN
greet BRETHREN.

37

I Cor. 16:20 .....
I Thess. 5:20 .....
Peter 5:14 .....
PAUL'S writings to the CHURCH at CORINTH
To THESSALONICA, ROME and don't miss,
PETER, for in his writings he tells us, too
To greet one another with a HOLY KISS.

38

We enjoy saluting the BRETHREN
That's what we are commanded to do,
We extend our love to one another
Doing what the BIBLE tells us to do.

#### PRAYER COVERING

39

PAUL, in writing to the CORINTHIAN'S
IN BOOK ONE and CHAPTER ELEVEN,
Plainly tells us to keep the ORDINANCES
The way in GOD'S BOOK they are given.

40

The BIBLE gives the line of headship
CHRIST is the head of every man,
MAN is the head of every woman
GOD is the head of CHRIST — "GOD'S PLAN."

41

When men pray their heads are to be uncovered If covered, they dishonoreth their head, When women pray, their heads are to be covered If uncovered, they dishonoreth their head.

l Cor. 11:1-2 . . .

I Cor. 11:3

I Cor. 11:4-5 .....

42

I Cor. 11:6

I Cor. 11:6

If a woman prays uncovered, the WORD says "Let her also be shaven and shorn,"

Such would be a shame for a woman
And to her head she would bring scorn.

43

In this same SCRIPTURE we learn

I Cor. 11:14-15 .... If a man have long hair it is a shame,

But, if a woman have long hair, it's a glory

To cut it would change glory to shame.

44

The COVERING is not the natural hair,
For man could not remove it to pray,
When the BIBLE states, "LET HER BE COVERED"
This SCRIPTURE each woman should obey.

- Brother Paul R. Myers

#### SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 15, 1928
THEY THINK IT STRANGE
I Peter 4:4

Minor Leatherman

They think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot speaking evil of you ever since man began upon the earth. The unruly, the unlawful, the unrighteous have thought it strange that the ruly, the lawful, the righteous did not run with them to the same excess.

Esau probably thought it strange that he was not treated like Jacob. The children of Israel thought it strange that they could not have idols and worship them like the surrounding nations. They thought it strange that they had to wear a little fringe of blue upon their garments and had to keep certain ordinances and commandments that the surrounding nations did not keep but strangest of all is the thought of some after they would live a separate life from the world and had renounced satan with all his pernicious ways would go back to the world again and wish to take others along with them. But since the lawful and Godly cannot do this neither have a desire to do so, those that separate themselves from the life of God, think it strange that those that love his commandments even more than life itself cannot do so. When a man unites his life with God he

cannot take up the old life without losing fellowship with God which is so dear to him when he promised to renounce satan in his baptismal vows. He promised to renounce Sunday baseball games or any other ball games, the movies, card parties, billiard rooms, state and county fairs, lodge halls, which is spiritual wickedness in high places; also feasting and dancing which is one of the great destroyers of spiritual life. We have read of some in the church where we separated from eating a hearty breakfast and getting into fine cars going to the house of God and laboring so hard in the service of the Lord that by eleven o'clock in the day they had to have refreshments served. It would seem that Paul did not work near so hard, neither did Elijah, nor any of the church fathers when the hour of worship has to be broken up in order to have an ice cream social. We wonder where the spirit of the cross, sacrifice and perseverance is.

Others put on the foolish fashions of the world and think it strange that we do not the same, speaking evil of us. The great cry is "It won't hurt and if the heart is right all is right." According to that logic we could say the thistle, the bitter crabapple and the deadly night hawk were all right but the heart and especially the human heart is known by its fruit. Where would be the wisdom and Godly sense to hear a man swearing with every word he uttered and then turn around and say if the heart is right all is right? Yet this is talked and more or less believed by many. It is one of the main ways of the devil. Its doctrine is to deceive unwary souls. It's nature to lull the loyal part of the church to sleep while the devil rocks them in the cradle of indifference while he sings over them this song, "Judge not anything that you see or hear." This false, this pernicious doctrine walked into the church with its motto do not use even righteous judgment and therefore almost all sins winked at, even the sin of fornication would be communed with. Paul's injunction not to eat did not make any difference. Coveting the dress of the world which is idolatry was also relegated as not binding but those ordinances that are binding such as the salutation was condemned as unsanitary. The idea of God giving a commandment to be observed and then killing people for keeping it!

They think it strange that the loyal part do not run after every innovation that comes along and say they are old fogies, bare heads and kickers. The whole sum of the matter is, those people need their minds renewed. They need a vision from God's standpoint of view. (John 18:36)

Jesus says, "My kingdom is not of this world." The Christian lives the separated life. He cannot indulge in the things of the world; he must be about his Master's business; he cannot intangle

himself in the pleasures of the world without "crucifying his Lord afresh and putting him to an open shame," if he goes back on his vows himself, his Lord and lost souls are made to suffer. Some one feels the effect of our lives, if it is for good, some one is made stronger if for evil, some one is hurt. We know our Saviour is hurt and grieved with a misspent life. It also may a dear mother, a father, a brother or sister or some dear friend. We know our heavenly Father is grieved when we do not think his service glorious and satisfying, when we have to return to the things of the world to get our pleasure. May God help us to find great pleasure in his service which bringeth that peace which the world cannot give, even joy at his right hand for ever more.

#### THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Divine and Human Parts in Conversion
J. H. Moore

In the process of conversion, as set forth in the New Testament Scriptures, there is a divine part, as well as human part. Man performs the human part, while the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, look after the divine side. The lack of this very necessary distinction, when treating the subject of conversion, has led to many errors.

We read, "By grace are ye saved." This is the divine part of salvation, and yet there is something more in the plan of redemption than mere grace. Then, on the other hand, we read that "by faith are ye saved." Still, in order to complete the process of conversion, there is something more than faith demanded. We further read, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." Paul was told to "arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins." These, along with faith, are human parts in the New Testament plan, but these of themselves will not answer the purpose. True, they are divinely-appointed conditions, but we must look even beyond conditions for the pardoning power. Though we read, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us," still, strictly speaking, baptism does not save. The real saving power is beyond all rites and ceremonies, or beyond anything that is our privilege, or even our duty, to perform.

The saving power is in the hands of the Lord, who alone exercises it when his clearly-revealed conditions are properly complied with. Through the apostles he has enjoined faith, repentance and baptism, not that they have in them any power or element to remove sins, but that the sinner may by them be brought to a condition where the Lord can and is willing to pardon his sins.

While the sinner may, and should, see the hand as well as the wisdom of God in these duties, he nevertheless looks beyond them to the hand and power that releases him from the burden of sin and enrolls his name among the redeemed.

Jesus has promised to save those who believe, repent and are baptized. He has pledged himself to pardon their sins, if they sincerely comply with these conditions, but he has not taught them to look to these or any other duties, rites or ceremonies, for the saving power. It is to Jesus that they must look for the Power that saves or pardons. Then, on the other hand, they are not to look to Jesus, expecting salvation while, at the same time, willfully neglecting the conditions. While there may be no inherent virtue in the conditions themselves, — for the real virtue is in Jesus and his atoning blood, — still there are no Gospel grounds for expecting God to apply this virtue, or pardoning power, in the absence of the conditions, — especially so when the conditions are knowingly neglected.

The authority to exercise the pardoning privilege, in behalf of the one who has faith and repentance, but for some reason has not been permitted to receive the rite of Christian baptism, may possibly be reserved by God as an act of special grace, but Jesus never so taught, nor were the apostles at any time authorized to promulgate such a doctrine. The plain, simple teaching of the New Testament is to believe, repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. To all such the promise is that they shall be pardoned, they shall receive the Holy Spirit, and henceforth be numbered with the saints, and entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Christian church.

What is said about salvation by grace, or being saved by hope, or by the atoning blood, does not set aside the duties required of sinners seeking salvation, but rather includes them, and the man who makes a business of emphasizing the divine side, and minimizing the human side, is doing violence to God's Word.

The fact of the matter is that, in the performance of duty, the sinner has his heart changed by faith, his conduct by repentance and his relation by baptism, but the pardoning act itself takes place in heaven, where the record is kept. The moment he performs his duty, just that moment does he receive pardon. In his own heart he feels that his sins have been removed and that he is a saved man. He does not feel that faith, repentance and baptism have saved him, for in them is no special merit, but he does realize that he has been saved by the direct and personal power of God. He sees and feels the real hand of God, the power of Jesus and the influence of the Holy Spirit in his salvation. Faith, repentance and baptism have

led him where Jesus has promised to meet him with pardon. He has performed the conditions and from the Lord received the assurance of pardon. And still none of the New Testament requirements should be looked upon as arbitrary. They are in perfect keeping with man's needs and the very nature of things. God, knowing what is in man, knew how to harmonize every requirement with the laws that govern thought, as well as matter.

#### HEART

I wonder if we as true followers of Jesus Christ could find room in our hearts for a stranger, one who does not know Jesus as we do. We all have friends who are always near. They also know Jesus as their Saviour.

How about the thousands who do not know of Jesus? Do we have some love in our hearts we can spare? Let us make room for these dear ones, the lost, the lonely and weary, in our hearts. If it had not been for the Grace of God we too could have been one of them.

If every good deed we do becomes a seed and we plant it along the way, it will come back ten fold. Let us plant it as we travel among our friends on the journey of life. True children of the Lord Jesus Christ will plant seed each day. Let each of us try each day to spend some time in sowing seeds for Christ and the Church. It will bring forth fruit for the Master.

The harvest is great but the labourers are few. The harvest is ready, so let us each one do our part to bring the lost to Christ.

God's storehouse is full. All we need to do is ask Him and He will supply our every need. Let us each one give Him a chance to open up His treasures, and our lives will overflow and the lost will be able to find the Lord and Saviour. Now is the time. Let us not wait till God calls us home. No one wants to go to Heaven empty handed. While we still have time, let us seek the lost and fallen and help them to see the Christ who died that they might be able to have a home in Heaven. Then we can feel we have had a little room in our hearts for a stranger.

Sister E. M. Alltus



King Canute promised to make him the highest man in England who should kill King Edmund, his rival; which when one had performed, and expected his reward, he commanded him to be hung on the highest tower of London. So Satan promises great things to people in pursuit of their lusts; then he puts them off with great injury.

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1988

March 6 - Tower of Babel; Descendants of Shem - Genesis 11:1-26.

- 1. What was the purpose of the tower?
- 2. What was the root sin in the tower of Babel? V. 4.

March 13 - God's Call and Promise to Abraham - Genesis 11:27-32; 12:1-9.

- Why was Abram chosen to be the father of the chosen race? Gen. 18:19.
- 2. Why are the Jews a "chosen people?"

March 20 - Abraham in Egypt; Abraham and Lot - Genesis 12:10-20; 13:1-18.

- 1. Why did Abrah lie about Sarai?
- 2. Can we "pitch our tent toward Sodom?"

March 27 - Abraham Rescues Lot; Melchisedek - Genesis 14:1-24.

- 1. Who was Melchisedek?
- 2. Why did Abram give him tithes?

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1988

March 6 - Our Integrity - Job 27:1-6; Psalms 41; Psalms 11:1-5; I John 3:18-24.

- 1. In what areas of our life is integrity important?
- 2. Who is our standard of Integrity? Eph. 4:13.

March 13 - Conversion - Psalms 19:2-14; Psalms 51:10-13; Matt. 18:1-11; Acts 3:19; James 5:19-20.

- 1. What is it to be converted?
- 2. What changes will occur in our daily living? II Cor. 5:17.

March 20 - Our Labor - Matthew 20:1-16.

- 1. What role do our labors play in our relationship with Christ?
- 2. What are the rewards for faithful labor?

March 27 - The Greatest Commandment - Deut. 10:12; Matt. 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-29.

- 1. What is it to love the Lord?
- 2. How do we prove our love? John 14:15.

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

VOL. LXVI

MARCH 1, 1988

NO. 5

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

#### LOVE OF MANY SHALL WAX COLD

(Matthew 24:12)

Love is tender and love is kind, And it comes from our soul and mind. True Christians show their affection, Showing Christ their adoration.

We are living in the last days When many folks don't give God praise. They allow their love to wax cold; Instead of humble, they are bold.

We are told to love each other, Neighbor, friend, sister, or brother. When we for Christ have made a stand, We know this is the Lord's command.

We'll hate evil but love kindness. We'll thank Him for His divineness, For the sorrow He had on earth, And for our chance for second birth.

Chastisements come to those who love And do the will of Christ above. They come in many various ways. So we'll walk closer all our days.

> - Sister Irene Stout R. 1 Box 160 Wabash, IN 46992

#### BASICS

We live in a very complicated world. Our contacts with the various levels of government are often frustrating because of "red tape." Financial and business affairs have become complicated. Although modern technology offers many advantages still it brings many complications. Tax forms even when supposedly simplified have become tedious and trying. It seems people have gotten away from the simple and basic things.

With the rejection of God and His Word, people do not have the simple reliance upon His principles to guide their lives and dealings. They try to argue away the application of God's Word to their lives by erecting a whole, complicated set of rules and regulations. These rules based on men's natural understanding, for them, take the place of God's unqualified "yea" and "nay." They have devised a code of conduct that varies according to the moment's situation. Right is determined by feelings rather than by the unchanging Word of God. Getting away from the basics of God's Word leave people adrift in a complicated set of changable rules.

Even the government understands the need for basic training when training members of her military forces. Basic training is needed before specialized training is begun.

In education certain basics need to be learned before more advanced classes can be taken. When studying mathematics the basic functions of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division must be learned before more complicated mathematical problems can be solved. There are many examples of the need for basics being learned before the more complicated can be accomplished.

#### THE BIBLE MONITOR

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Unfortunately there are many times that Christianity is made complicated. The plain and simple gospel is overwhelmed with so many unnecessary complications. It would be well for those who fill the pews to often have repeated for them the plan of salvation. There is a tendancy too often to become overly concerned with side issues that have a place but yet are unimportant if not preceded by the call to salvation.

The ordinances of the Church and the government of our daily lives are of no importance to a lost and dying world. The unconverted care nothing about right living. The unconverted must hear the plan of salvation in order to use it. It is good for the converted to hear that same plan over and over so they can realize what price has been paid for their souls. This should make them a thankful and introspective people. By oft times hearing the plan of salvation, they can better repeat it for others, who need to hear, but who would not likely be found in the House of God.

Christian living is often complicated by men's ideas. They have all manner of amendments to make to God's plan, which often defeat God's plan and purpose. People do not like to acknowledge their sinfulness so they use morality, good works or the record of past generations as substitutes for God's plan. It is hard for people to realize that they are a part of the problem of this world instead of part of the solution, unless following God.

It would be easy enough to blame our problems on Adam and Eve. Although we have inherited their tendency to sin, we each sin on our own account. This sin stands between us and God. This separation is spiritual death. Without God's mercy and grace we would be doomed to an eternal separation from Him. Through His mercy and grace He has provided a way of escape. By sending His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ He made a way for us to be brought into favor with Him. Jesus bore on the cross our sin and unrighteousness. Although He has borne that sin, we must acknowledge it and believe He is able to take it from us. After expressing our sorrow for past sins and determination to sin no more, we are to be baptized by triune immersion, which pictures His death and resurrection. With the indwelling of His Spirit following baptism a new creature is born to live a life, pleasing to God.

These basics must be met before any of the services of the Church can be meaningful to us. The ordinances and holy living now are important for they are built upon the basic concept of having our sins forgiven. Following the basics our activities in holy living should reflect our Saviour's life within us.

In a complicated world, we must be careful we do not make this most needed of all things too complicated. We must not scare

away those who most need to know these basics. On the other hand, we need to be careful we do not subtract from all that God actually requires.

Let us learn and often repeat the basics, so what comes after will be easier and more sensible to follow. Learn the basics!

#### A MESSED UP LIFE

"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." Gen. 1:2.

The earth was not always as we see it now. It was once without form, void, dark — a very bleak picture. Everything was jumbled up and out of order. There was no life, nor could it sustain life at that point. There were no people, no animals, nor trees and such. God took the mess, straightened it out and made it fit for life. He took away the emptiness and filled it with His creation. Darkness was brought under control, and light came into being. When everything was completed, God said it was good (see Gen. 1:31).

It wasn't long until the scene changed. Adam and Eve got into trouble when they sinned, and the consequences brought alot of distress. Sin has been in the heart of man ever since, and people are alienated from God by this sinful nature. Sin fills our hearts and lives with chaos; it brings emptiness and gloom. Before we come to Christ, our lives are very much like this earth was once, and it takes God to set everything straight.

It took the special touch of God to change this world from a useless mess into something worthwhile. It took His touch to establish order where chaos had been, to create life where none existed. God filled every void with His goodness. It takes His touch to change us also, and to fill us with worthwhile traits and goals. Without God's touch, we will remain empty and lifeless.

When we come to Christ, we can only come as we are. Whatever we'd like to be, or whatever we think we are doesn't count. Neither can we make ourselves worthy of Christ's forgiveness. Our lives are messed up because our souls are messed up, and our souls are messed up because of sin. We need to repent and receive forgiveness through Jesus. He alone can take care of this sin and give us strength to be what we'd ought to be.

"Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:25. Some people's lives seem to be more messed up than others, but Jesus is able to save to the uttermost. It doesn't matter how long your list of failures is. Jesus is able to save you and help you go on to something better. He can lift you out of the depths of sin and give you a whole new life. No matter how bad the

mess is, Jesus can change it.

"But God commendeth his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8. Some people think they are too bad to be saved, that their lives are so messed up that God won't want them. The fact is these are the kinds of people Jesus died for. These are the kinds of people God chose to love! If God had waited for us to quit sinning so we could be saved, it would never happen. It can only be because of God's love and mercy.

Jesus said to the woman taken in adultery, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." John 8:11. Everyone of us has messed up our lives in some way or other. Our personal sin may not be the same as this woman but we are guilty nonetheless. When we come to Him, Jesus' message to us will be the same. Rather than condemning us, He forgives, then tells us to go on our way and leave sin behind.

Jesus asked, "Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?" Simon said, "I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most." Any person who is rescued by Jesus from a really messed up life feels deeply grateful. The woman who anointed Jesus' feet was right at the bottom of the list as far as the religious leaders were concerned, but she loved Jesus and He loved her. Her sins were many, but not too many to forgive and she went away with peace in her heart. Read Luke 7:36-50.

Whether we've committed one sin or a dozen, we have plenty of reason to love Jesus much. We are just like this woman, only a sinner, only able to be saved by His grace. We are no better than anyone else, and may not be as good as some, so we've nothing to boast of. Jesus is the only one who can take a messed up life and turn it into something worthwhile. Let Him have yours, won't you? And make it soon!

Sister Eileen Broadwater

#### THE PASSPORT OF LIFE

A passport is a document giving official permission to travel in a certain country, under the protection of your own government. You don't need to show your passport at the time of leaving your own country. Your plane ticket or ship ticket is what you need to begin a journey overseas. But the moment you enter the country to which you are traveling, you must show your passport. If you have no passport, you will either be shipped out on the next available flight, or detained until the officials find out who you are and what you want.

When you enter a foreign country, and are asked for your pass-

port, the customs official will examine it, and then carefully look at you to see that you match the description and photo in the passport. You also need your passport available at all times while in any foreign country and must show it upon request to the officers. You must also show your passport upon returning to your own country.

A passport entitles you to certain privileges. You can travel freely (more or less) through the visiting country. Your home government will attempt to protect you. The Ambassador of your country will assist you in a real emergency. In theory, your passport will protect you from harrassment and arrest by foreign officials.

Christians are pilgrims or aliens on this earth who are "just a passin' through." The Christian is not at home here on earth. His affections are to be centered on his home country and its kingdom. He is a foreigner while here.

There are no documents required to leave this earth. But if you wish to be admitted into the country of Heaven, you need a passport of life. This passport could be described as right standing with God, or righteousness. (See Romans 4:4-5 and Revelations 3:5-18; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9-17.) This passport is obtained through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are certain privileges associated with having the passport of life. You will be granted an entrance into Heaven instead of being cast into Hell. You will receive new life in Christ. You are guaranteed twenty-four-hour access to God, and His help in the time of trouble.

Have you obtained your passport of life? Have you received right standing with God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? Will you be admitted into the celestial city?

Brother Robert S. Lehigh R. 4 Box 4427 Spring Grove, PA 17362

#### SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 1, 1928

FAITH

D. W. Hostetler

When the word of God is taught, it produces faith. The sinner is convicted of his sin and he is made to believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the word of God.

In Ephesians 2:8, it is said that we are saved through faith and in

the same text we find "By grace are ye saved." In Romans 8:26, it is said that we are saved by hope. Again Paul says, "Work out your soul salvation." Still another text says that whosoever calleth on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Unfortunately, many people have taken one of these texts and have run into the extreme with it. With some people, salvation is all faith; with others it is all hope; with others it is grace; some want to do it all by works; and a very common expression is "Only believe."

To take one of these texts and disregard all others is narrowness in the extreme. I want to be quite liberal here: it takes a combination of all of these forces to work out our salvation. Each writer of the New Testament put the emphasis on the subject he was dealing with, so when the text says that we are saved through faith, it is understood that these other virtues are applied in the process of working out of our salvation. The Jews had the Gospel preached to them but to no profit, because it was not mixed with faith. Unbelief is the sin that is running rampant through the country, and this sin will, without doubt, condemn more people in the great day of reckoning than all other sins. Atheism may be chartered by the state of New York, but it will never be able to stamp Christianity out of the human heart and convert the American people to its creed of negations and absurdities. We still find ourselves doing as Jesus said in Mark 11:22, "Have faith in God," and like Philip who told the eunuch to believe with all his heart, and as we are told in Mark 1:15, "Believe the gospel."

To have faith as stated above is to accept these commands just as they are. It means to put confidence in, to trust in, or put faith in them as in the reality of a fact, as in the integrity and veracity of another. It means that we put our trust in the veracity of these objectives; and this leads up to the habitual observance of truth.

The power of God unto salvation is vested in the Gospel as seen in Romans 1:16 and Ephesians 1:19. Paul further says that the preaching of the cross unto them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. Faith lays hold of the Gospel which is the power of God to them that believe, and since the faith of the Son of God is a living evangelical faith, it is active and works by love. It leads the individual to seize the means of grace. Paul says in Romans 5:2, "By whom also we have access into this grace wherein we stand." It is through faith in the Son of God that we can claim the grace of God. It is all folly to confess faith in the Christ and then reject part of his teaching as some do saying that some of the teachings of Christ are unessential, for in so doing the very means of grace are rejected. This leads up to Paul's teaching of the unity of faith in Ephesians 4:13.

In Ephesians 4:5 we read, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

What is the one faith? Can one member believe that faith, repentance, and baptism (triune immersion) for the remission of sins are the conditions of pardon, while another believes that he is justified by faith and that baptism is rendered essential because of remission of sins, still another believes that secret oath bound orders are incompatible with Christianity, and another believes he can affiliate with secret orders. We still believe the established practices of the church in the principles of non-conformity to the world in the matter of dress and worldly amusements while others disregard all these principles and follow the vain and sinful fashions of the world and games and plays of worldly amusements. Under such conditions how can we be brought into the unity of the faith, of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ?

The next verse says, "That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro and carried about by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, but let us spread the truth in love, that we may grow up unto him in all things which is the head even Christ."

The unity of the faith will bring us to Philippians 1:27, "Stand fast in one spirit with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." And again, earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints. We should speak the same things, there should be no dissensions among us; we should be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. There must be eternal manifestations of the faith. This is the teaching of James when he says "Shew me thy faith without works and I will shew you my faith by my works. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." Abraham was justified by works when he offered his son, Isaac. I cannot see how there can be any justification of faith without an external manifestation. Unity in our faith and practice is the thing that will count for most.

Another interesting point is found in Hebrews 12:2: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." It is evident that if Christ is the author and finisher of our faith he will make the faith of all men the same. We cannot admit that Christ will make one faith for one man and another kind for another. He does not make one a Quaker and another a Calvinist. He does not make one to believe all the gospel and obey it, and another to believe so he can set part of it aside.

The gospel tells us what Jesus said and did and if we believe the things that Jesus said and did just as it is in the book, our faith is the same. To allow Jesus to be finisher of our faith is to put into practice the things we believe, to begin with Christ and go with him all the way, stop with him when he stops or quit with him when he

quits. People differ in practices, but the difference comes from some other source than Jesus Christ, for whatever Jesus meant then he means the same for us. When you are through reading this letter, turn to your Bible and read Acts 16:5, I Timothy 4:1, II Timothy 3:13-15 and II Corinthians 13:5.

#### ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Christians and Financial Commitment

As we look back into the old minutes of our church, we find some prohibitions against taking part in government farm programs. The men of God who made rulings on this matter saw the dangers of getting too close to or to dependent on the world system. Again, today, we must sound the warning about a major problem of our age and that is becoming indebted to a creditor or creditors in such a way as to become insolvent or dependent.

Several years ago a popular song talked of "selling my soul to the company store..." That might be symbolic of the great indebtedness that many are experiencing today.

I submit that many businesses in this age require borrowing to stock their shelves or produce other products or even to plant their crops. This has become necessary but if we follow the Bible... we will use its guidelines to handle these situations properly.

We are living in a problematic and affluent age. We see economic challenges all around us. Inflation has been propelling across this nation and the world for forty years. This time of inflation caused many people to become careless in their investing and in making financial commitments. People violated safety measures in monetary investments and depended on inflation to get them by. For the past few years, banks have actually encouraged us to borrow heavily and sometimes this occurred without thorough investigation of the stability of the loan. But remember this principle from Proverbs 22:7, "... The borrower is servant to the lender," and this fact has become a reality to many people in the late 1980's.

Now, the economy has reversed. We are actually experiencing "deflation." The value of our property and goods have decreased. Profits have slid down to unhealthy low levels. Some businesses are stressed because of high investments and low collateral. It becomes increasingly more difficult to pay the debts that we have made. Possibly it is taking all of our monies to decrease a debt rather than being able to properly support our family or to give to the work of the Lord. Stress has increased... "Mens hearts failing them for fear..." Family stress is increasing and in a society where

most families are held together with only a thread, this is taking stability away from the lives of youth. Insecurity is a by-product of building our lives around possessions which are only temporary. Even our sleep is affected by the worry and pressure from financial cares.

We must be more serious about entering into financial commitments today. We must analyze Biblical principles and find out if we are functioning in our own selfish interest or under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

There are many questions we should ask when we decide to borrow .noney or make investments. First, will it violate the Scripture? The Scriptures are very demanding about not being in debt. (See Rom. 13:8) Will it produce a bondage relationship with our creditors? Will it make difficult demands on our future? Proverbs 27:1 says, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Will it give only an illusion of independence? Some individuals feel that if they have the money in hand, it is theirs to do with for whatever they desire. Will it devour our resources to repay it and will the high interest eat up much of what we have borrowed? Figure carefully. If you borrow only six thousand dollars for thirty years at 12% interest, it will end up costing you an additional fifty thousand dollars to pay it off on monthly payments.

Moses could not borrow to construct the tabernacle because it would have made God the servant of the people. Noah couldn't borrow to build the ark because it would have damaged his faith and his witness. Paul couldn't borrow money to finance his missionary trips because he would have needed to ask people to support him. Money should be borrowed primarily for increasing income. Proverbs 23:27 teaches us to "Prepare... to fit ... and afterwards build thine house."

We need to analyze our ability to manage in our business before we use borrowed funds to operate it. It is always valuable to seek the counsel of someone older or more experienced in the Body and then to pray about that information and the decision to follow. If we are seeking to go into a questionable business and if our motive is to earn a "quick buck," it is likely that we will be headed for financial disaster. Success will come only as we keep adequate records, as we budget and evaluate our performance in that field of endeavor.

As Christians, we have to learn to keep our debts in line with our income and ability to pay back that which we owe. I would encourage you to reach out with optimism as you work toward achievement through high goals, but go forth realistically and with self-examination. If you follow the world's standards and goals you

will suffer the world's problems and heartaches. Money problems are always listed among the major causes of divorces and marital problems in our country. Our lack of self control in this area will lead to material and spiritual bankruptcy. Remember, "It is he (God) that giveth thee power to get wealth..." Deut. 8:18. You can only be financially free as you seek His will in your life.

Brother Len Wertz

## THE DOCTRINE OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

#### ANOINTING

45

GOD has made provision for HIS CHILDREN HE is aware of all our needs. Whether in HEALTH or whether in SICKNESS

HE never fails, but always succeeds.

46

In the NEW TESTAMENT, in the BOOK of JAMES In chapter five and verse fourteen, We read, "If there is any among you sick

Let him call the ELDERS for the ANOINTING."

47

James 5:14-15 ...

And let the ELDERS pray over the one ANOINTING him with oil in the name of the LORD.

And the prayer of faith shall save him As GOD promised He'd do in HIS WORD.

There is promised a three-fold blessing Bestowed on the one who is anointed. The PRAYER of FAITH shall save him and the LORD shall raise him up.

49 If he hath committed any sins

They all shall be forgiven him, James 5:15 ..... What wonderful blessings are our's to receive

When we have faith and willing obey HIM.

- Brother Paul R. Myers

## WHAT ARE YOU WORKING FOR?

Do you remember the day you went with friends to the river and on your bended knee made a promise before God and those who were with you to live and be faithful unto death? Then you were baptized and had your name enrolled on the Book of Life, which no one can erase except you. Your name will stay there till you die if you stay close to Christ and live for Him. But if you turn away, your name will be blotted out.

Dear ones, that would be sad. So many who made that promise have left and gone back into sin and out into a world of darkness.

We are told as it was in the days of Noah so shall it be when Christ comes. Two will be in the field, one will be taken and the other left. Can any one imagine how one would feel if he were the one left? Be ye ready, the Bible says, in such an hour as you think not the Son cometh. Just how do you think you would feel when Christ comes to call His own and you were not one of them? You are to study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. II Timothy 2:15.

After we go to the house of prayer are we able to remember the words we have heard or are our minds so filled with our daily lives we don't have any room for the message we have heard? Are we so tired when Sunday comes we can't go to church but stay home to get a rest so we will be able to go to work Monday morning? To me I seem to be at rest when I am in God's house because I know that is where He wants me to be. The services are very short compared to a day of work. Our Saviour says, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches." The Apostle said, "Not forsaking the assembling of our selves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as we see the day approaching."

He knew that when the end comes we will have wars and earthquakes. Nations against nations, and a falling away of those who once loved and served the Lord. We see this all about us today. Therefore we should work harder, having our things in shape so we will be ready for Christ's return.

I hope we are all working to build one another up, so we can say as the Apostle said, I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith, I am now ready, the time of my departure is at hand. I pray we will all work to that end so Christ's name will be honored and glorified.

Sister E. M. Alltus

#### HE THAT SHALL ENDURE

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Matt. 24:13. This verse implies that our Christian life will be no picnic. The word "endure" means to remain firm under suffering or misfortune without yielding. It implies hardship that is tolerated

without giving in to it. How much suffering for the gospel do we see in this nation today? We see very little because we are not willing to put ourself in the position to suffer. John the Baptist lost his head when he accused the king of adultery: trying to serve the God of heaven and the God of this world at the same time.

Few are willing to suffer for Jesus. We allow ourselves every comfort: new homes, new cars, the best of food and everything. Yet the church in other parts of the world goes begging. We accuse them of being lazy instead of lifting their burdens. Shame on us. Are we living life so as to look forward to our heavenly home, or will we be sorry to go? Many Christians have an empire set up here, so it seems they want to live forever. Yet in such a time as we think not He will come and carry us away. Will we be glad to see Him, or will it be a shameful time for us?

This life was only meant to prepare us for the next one. Many spend all their time in acquiring riches so that when we depart this life we have left much for our children to fight over. Let us spend more time preparing for heaven instead of making ourselves more comfortable here. In Luke 16 we read of the rich men (whose name is not mentioned) and Lazarus. After judgment to those two souls Abraham said to the rich man, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivest thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. These words should serve as a warning to us that we do not desire the things to give us comfort in this life, but we must instead strive to enter in at the straight gate, and prepare ourselves for eternal life.

If we look at our waistlines I wonder what we see. Do we see inches added by leisure and a soft life, or do we see muscles hardened by hard work? It is not wise to give in to the flesh, for that is what Adam and Eve did

Lynn Hayes Miller RD #2 Box 561 Newmanstown, PA 17073

#### THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Some Examples of Conversion
J. H. Moore

When Jesus, just before his departure from earth to heaven, sent forth his disciples into all the world, to preach the Gospel to every creature, he outlined, as given by the different evangelists, in what is known as the Great Commission, the entire process of conversion. This process consists of hearing the Word preached, of believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, of repentance, of being baptized, — to be followed by the remission of sins. In Mark 16:15 the apostles were told to "preach the gospel." This means hearing, on the part of those taught. In the next verse we read: "He that

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Marla, his parents, two brothers, Lloyd of Wauseon, and Tracy of Holland, Ohio; a sister, Lois Yoder of Hicksville, Ohio; nieces and nephews; and his grandmothers, Grace Eby of Wauseon, Ohio and Ruth Steinbrecher of Archbold, Ohio and a host of relatives and friends.

#### **NEWS ITEMS**

#### PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Our 1988 Evangelistic Meeting is planned for March 13-27, with Bro. Henry Walker as speaker. There will be a Lovefeast service beginning 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 26th. Come and worship with us at anytime.

Sister Eileen Broadwater, Cor.

#### DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

... Death is swallowed up in victory. I Corinthians 15:54.

The Lord willing, the Dallas Center, Iowa congregation will once again share His Victory during our Lovefeast service on Easter weekend, April 2 and 3. Services begin at 10:45 on Saturday morning with communion services that evening. Come and worship with us.

Sister Becky Funk, Cor.

#### GOSHEN, INDIANA

The District Meeting for the Second District will be held at the Goshen Church on April 1 and 2. Services will start on Friday at 2 p.m. and evening services at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, the business meeting will start at 9 a.m.

We invite you to attend.

Sister Rebecca Stalter, Cor.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The poems of Sis. Irene Stout are now available in the second booklet of a projected series of twelve booklets. The title of this booklet is Tree of Life - Poems of Love. The first booklet Tree of Life - Poems and Prayers are still available. Order from the Editor of Bible Monitor. The price is \$1.95 per booklet post paid. All proceeds go to the Church.



Feed a bear, and his claws will grow.

believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Here we have faith, baptism and pardon, for the term "saved" means pardon, or the "remission of sins," as it is stated in another part of the commission, recorded in Luke 24:47. In the same verse "repentance" is given, as a part of the commission, as well as a part of the process of conversion. In John 20:23 the promise of pardon, or salvation from sins, is stated in this form: "Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." By yet adding the part recorded in Matt. 28:19, we have the process complete: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." What follows the process of conversion will be found in the next verse: "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." In connection with these instructions, Jesus told his faithful apostles, to whom he was entrusting the Word, "For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." (Acts 1:5). Prior to this time, and before his crucifixion, he told them that if he should go away to the Father, he would send them the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, and that the Spirit would guide them into all truth, and should bring to their remembrance all things whatsoever he had taught them (John 14:26; 16:7-13).

On the Day of Pentecost this promise was fulfilled, and on that occasion the apostles were "filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4) It will now be well to follow these Spirit-filled men in their work, see how they understood their instructions, and observe how they performed their duties. Being filled with the Spirit, and being led by the Spirit in all they said and did, it is to be presumed they did just what the Master intended they should do. We shall, therefore, consider a few examples of conversions under their instructions.

## **OBITUARY**

#### G. WILLIAM EBY

Bro. George William Eby, son of George and Marilyn Eby, was born on November 19, 1959 near Wauseon, Ohio and passed away on November 30, 1987 at his home near West Unity, Ohio at the age of 28 years and 11 days.

On August 4, 1979 he was united in marriage to Marla Jo St. John.

He accepted Christ as his personal Savior at an early age, and was a member of the West Fulton Brethren Church.

He was well liked by all who knew him, and will be greatly missed.

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

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MARCH 15, 1988

NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

## CHRIST RECEIVETH SINFUL MEN

Sinners Jesus will receive; Sound this word of grace to all Who the heav'nly pathway leave, All who linger, all who fall.

Come, and He will give you rest; Trust Him, for His word is plain; He will take the sinfulest, Christ receiveth sinful men.

Now my heart condemns me not, Pure before the law I stand; He who cleansed me from all spot, Satisfied its last demand.

Christ receiveth sinful men, Even me with all my sin; Purged from ev'ry spot and stain, Heav'ns with Him I enter in.

- Neumaster

8,3

## A GOOD MAN AND HIS SIN

Noah, a preacher of righteousness, lived in an evil day. The time just before the flood was so evil that Jesus spoke of it as being comparable to the time just before His Second Coming. Looking at our present day we see the breakdown in morals, authority and Christianity that would parallel the times just before the flood. It is a day when few can be found who are willing to completely follow the Bible's teachings. Only eight were saved on the ark.

Noah built the ark according to the plan given him by God. He did not deviate from the pattern in any detail, so the ark became the means of his and his family's salvation. If God had not shown grace to Noah, he would have been destroyed along with everyone else. God's grace would have been unavailing if Noah had not been obedient.

The ark carried Noah's family through the flood. It was no small boat. It was large enough not only to accommodate all the animals which were aboard but also all their provisions. This vessel was sea worthy because of the type of wood used and the pitch used to chink it. All of these details were necessary to make it the ark of safety it proved to be. Today men would be wise if they would be as careful, as Noah was, in building their spiritual arks according to God's plan.

Noah and his family survived the flood and destruction around them. Those who had paid no attention to Noah's preaching and practice tried in vain to escape the flood. Those who had ridiculed his predictions of rain now tried to escape that rain, in vain for, then as now, when God's time had come it was too late for men to change the course of events. It was too late to make the decisions

## THE BIBLE MONITOR

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that should have been made while Noah was preaching. The ark that would be Noah's salvation would be the damnation of those who refused to heed. The Christ, who has provided salvation for those who will accept and follow Him, will be the means of judgment and damnation for those who reject Him or only follow Him in a half-hearted way.

It was five months before the waters receeded so Noah and his family and the animals could return to the dry earth. Noah realized what had been done for him and appreciated it. His first act after leaving the ark was to offer a sacrifice to God. He realized that without God's Grace he would have had no plan by which to build the ark. Without the Grace of God there would have been no perfect sacrifice offered for our redemption nor plan plainly set out in God's Word whereby we could be saved.

Noah became a husbandman, growing plants and enjoying the fruit of those plants. He began to cultivate the vine. It produced an abundant crop. To preserve it the grapes were turned into juice and, consiously or unconsciously, allowed to ferment. Noah began to drink this fermented drink. Perhaps like many today who call themselves "social drinkers" he thought he could enjoy a few sips but then as now, the few sips led to more and more. Eventually Noah enjoyed it to such an extent that he became drunken. In one of these drunken times he was naked in his tent. There was perhaps more to his nakedness than is told but here we see a good man, a preacher of righteousness, engaged in sin. Perhaps being in his tent he thought no one would ever know what was going on. But sin always comes to light some time. His son Ham saw him. He made no effort to cover Noah but went to tell his brothers about it. He made light of what he had seen. His brothers, without looking, covered their father.

Noah's experience should serve as a warning to all Christians. He had been saved through the flood. The Christian has been through the waters of baptism that symbolically compare to the flood. Although Noah had performed great service for God he still fell in a moment of weakness. Christians today are in great danger of repeating Noah's experience. They may serve God through many activities. They may be extraordinary students of the Bible. They may be faithful prayer warriors. But they still may in moments of weakness fall into sin.

It is easier to condemn a Noah or even a modern day fallen Christian than it is to live a life without spot or blemish. The Bible does not overlook Noah's sin and today's sins cannot be overlooked — they must be forgiven.

Are you like Noah? Have you done much good but yet in an unguarded moment sin has come? Recover yourself and ask God's

forgiveness and go on your way seeking to do better.

#### SIN

"Sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me." Rom. 7:11.

Christians, beware how thou thinkest lightly of sin. Take heed lest thou fall by little and little. Sin, a little thing? Is it not a poison? Who knows its deadliness? Sin, a little thing? Do not the little foxes spoil the grapes? Doth not the tiny coral insect build a rock which wrecks a navy? Do not little strokes fell lofty oaks? Will not continual droppings wear away stones? Sin, a little thing? It girded the Redeemer's head with thorns, and pierced His heart! It made Him suffer anguish, bitterness, and woe. Could you weigh the least sin in the scales of eternity, you would fly from it as from a serpent, and abhor the least appearance of evil. Look upon all sin as that which crucified the Saviour, and you will see it to be "exceeding sinful."

C. H. Spurgeon Selected by Lynn H. Miller

#### ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"So, what does God expect?"

We live in a world of expectations. The world expects us to live by their rules. There are social expectations, parental expectations, employment expectations, often we complain about many of the things others expect us to do. But the key to being free to live our lives is found in the fact that we are not put on the earth to live up to everyone's expectations... especially where the world is involved. We are put here to serve God, not just with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but from the heart. (Eph. 6:6-8)

God also has some expectations of us. They are only those which will help us to achieve our highest potential as the individuals He created us to be... so that we will be best able to glorify Him.

So, what does God expect?

Our Father's expectations for us are for our own good rather than for His selfish benefit... as men's expectations are.

First, He expects us to become friends with Him. (I John 1:7) Consider your relationship with Him for a moment. Do you REALLY know Him? Are you consciously trying to please Him? Jer. 9:23 and 24 tells us that we are not to glory in our own wisdom but we are to glory in our understanding of the Lord. To really

know Him requires frequent communication (prayer). To understand someone is to study them. This requires an attitude of Godawareness at all times. Prayer may be verbal or nonverbal and if we are truly God-aware, it might be conscious or unconscious... just living in His presence at all times. If we have a good friend our attitude toward that individual is supportive and considerate. We don't do things in their presence that offends them. This should be our goal in being a friend of God. As we become more and more conscious of His continual presence, we will stop doing those things that are offensive to Him.

We are to obey His commandments. (I Peter 2:2-3) As we spend more time in God's Word, communicating with Him, and we become true friends with God, we develop the desire and the ability to follow the guidelines for living which are explained in the Bible. As we walk in the Spirit, we find that we will not fulfill the natural desires of the flesh. (Gal. 5:16) And because God's rules are given to us out of love, following His guidelines will result in a more abundant life.

God expects us to become more and more like Christ. (Eph. 3:16-20) While living on this earth, Jesus experienced the same kinds of pressures that we do today. He knew what it was like to have others expect Him to fit different roles. He was kept busy. He was tempted by the Devil... as we are. Yet Christ never forgot to spend time with His Father. He was obedient even to the cross. As a result, His Father was able to say, "This is My beloved Son."

God expects us to live one day at a time. (Prov. 27:1) While we are to plan ahead and be prepared to be good stewards of our time here on earth, we only have NOW as a certainty. Christ may return at any time to gather us unto Himself. Therefore what we plan to do we should be working on NOW. We are not to waste time worrying about our future but are to work toward high achievement for the Lord each day.

God expects our lives to be full of joy. (Ps. 118:24) We are to be "happy on our way." I believe we are also to be as intensely energetic as is physically possible for us.

Have you laughed today? Just how often do you find yourself laughing out of pure enjoyment... just because you are alive and you are Christ's? When we get so busy with an overloaded schedule that the sound of our own laughter is almost foreign to our ears... we need priority reconstruction in our lives. Sometimes it just seems that too many things are going wrong to be able to laugh so we over-react and become sour and reclusive. We need to take time to smell the roses along the way! We must relax now and then and take in deep breaths of the fresh fragrant air that God has created for us. We need to see some of the lighter sides of life and

understand that God is in control and we can lay our burdens upon Him.

If you look around you, you will find that there are always those who have greater problems than you do... those who are less fortunate, dying, deserted, beaten, trodden down. There are those with similar problems and limitations. You, as a part of the Body of Christ, are in the midst of a supportive community if you reach out to your brothers and sisters. And don't forget to look up. God is there. He loves you and cares. He can see the future and He knows how all of this is going to come out. TRUST HIM! How can you lose? "This is the day that the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Today was made for joy and that is what God expects of you.

We can never function at our fullest until we understand the expectations of those around us and this is also true of those required by our God. Once we begin to fulfill God's expectations for us we will find that we are actually able to fulfill many of our own expectations. God's expectations for us are realistic and for our own good. Come to life in this adventure on Earth. Move toward the objective of fulfilling God's expectations for you.

Brother Len Wertz

#### THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

On The Day of Pentecost J. H. Moore

We notice first the conversion of the three thousand on the Day of Pentecost. On this occasion there was a clear manifestation of the presence of God. This was evidenced by the appearance of the "cloven tongues like as of fire," and the ability of the apostles to preach the Word, so that the people of different nationalities could hear what was said in their own language. We are not told how much preaching was done, or how much ground was covered in the addresses delivered.

But sufficient was said to give the people to understand that they had sinned, and that there was salvation only in and through the name of Jesus. Hundreds of them were pierced in the heart by what was said, and in the midst of Peter's sermon said, right out in the meeting, "Men and brethren, what shall we do" (Acts 2:37)? There was enough in the preaching, regarding duty, to indicate that something must be done. This was Peter's opportunity. He had just received his instructions from the Master, and on this occasion, speaking as he was moved by the Holy Spirit, was prepared to give an answer that could not be misunderstood.

In verse 38 we have these words: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." In this answer we have clearly specified every point presented by the Master, when he sent forth his disciples to preach the Gospel.

To start with, we have the preaching of the Word, followed by sufficient faith to prompt inquiry after the way of salvation. Faith, though not mentioned, is implied, or understood; otherwise the men, pricked in the heart, would never have asked the question they did. Peter's answer, which followed, contains repentance, baptism, the remission of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, — the very points contained in the commission. The expression, "Baptized... in the name of Jesus Christ," evidently means "into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," for this is the way the Master had told his disciples to administer the rite, and it is unreasonable to suppose that, guided by the Spirit, they would go contrary to the instructions received.

Since Jesus incorporated the hearing of the Word, faith, repentance, baptism and the remission of sins, in his last commission to his apostles, and since these apostles, guided by the Spirit, named all these points, when instructing the first applicants following the receiving of their instructions, it certainly must be evident that this is just what they understood the Master to teach. And since they thus understood the commission, it certainly follows that this must be its real meaning. There is no reasonable way of escaping this conclusion.

## THE DOCTRINE OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

## NON-RESISTANCE

50

I Thess. 5:17	CHRISTIANS are to be a peaceful people
Phillip. 4:8	Lovingly, kind-hearted and true,
Matt. 7:12	We are taught to do unto others
	As you would have others do unto you.

51

Matt. 5:44	We are taught to love our enemies
Luke 6:27	Do good to them that hate you,
	On the CROSS, JESUS gave us an e

Luke 23:34 ..... On the CROSS, JESUS gave us an example Forgive, for they know not what they do.

52

Luke 6:29 ...... In the practice of non-resistance
If someone takes of your cloak,
Do not make an issue of it
But, also, give him your coat.

53

Luke 6:29 ...... If someone smites you on the cheek
Don't smite back, but turn your face,
Offer to him your other cheek
He's apt to walk away in disgrace.

54

If someone really forces you
To walk with him a mile,

Mark 5:44 ...... Keep right on walking with him
The SECOND MILE, with a SMILE.

55

CHRISTIANS will not go to war

If they are living out GOD'S WORD,

For the BIBLE plainly tells us

We are not to take the SWORD.

56

Exodus 20:13 ... The commandment, "Thou shalt not kill" Romans 13:9 .... Strictly forbids us to take a life,

James 3:14 . . . . When we live a life of NON-RESISTANCE

Romans 13:13 ... We oppose all war and strife.

57

Brother Paul R. Myers

#### ACCEPTING GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES

James 4:15-16, "For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil."

I Corinthians 12:11, "But all these worketh that one and selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

Romans 6:22, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

The more we contemplate the sovereignty of God the less full

understanding we have. But of two things we are sure from our study of scripture. The first is that God never infringes upon our free will. The second is that God has a sovereign will for His children in the Faith. We could add a third, and that is when man seeks his own will he will lose the blessing of God on his life.

Out of the popular positive thinking theology, which has as its central theme self love and self esteem, has come the idea of seeking your potential. While it is true that we are to be all that God desires us to be, this is far different from seeking the potential for my life. We have come to the point in our life that we desire to allow God full control of our life. This is not an easy task. Self pride and self desire are strong realities within the life of an individual. We all have our dreams of success in one area or another. But that may not be the will of God for our lives. To realize that everything truly works out for good if we are in the will of God is easier expressed than accepted. For instance, if it is God's will for this article to appear in the Bible Monitor it will be there. But if it should not be accepted for printing (of course you would never know about this) can I accept THAT as the will of God?

Our opening verse found in the book of James deals directly with this matter. While the context is individuals going into a city to buy and sell for a year and get gain, we believe it also deals with matters much more serious. We believe that many individuals have seen their potential to be such things as politicians, sports stars, movie stars, and many other life goals which are attained through struggle and hard work but lost the blessing of God upon their lives for failing to be what He desired of them. There are even those who become preachers, teachers, and missionaries who did not have the blessing of God on their lives because this was their potential in life and not what God's sovereign will for their life was. In many, perhaps most or even all, of these cases the individuals received much glory and honour from their human supporters but they failed to give God the honour and glory He deserves and demands. While ministers, teachers, or missionaries are not infallible, they cannot teach or preach false doctrine and still have the blessing of God upon their life. This brings us to our second verse in our study, found in I Corinthians.

This verse follows the listing of some of the gifts of the Spirit, a very controversial issue which we will not deal with in this study. What we wish to deal with is the fact that it is the Spirit that gives these gifts to individuals as HE sees fit. There is no hint of the thought that we are to seek these gifts because we see a human potential in ourselves. Paul does say in I Corinthians 12:31 "But covet earnestly the best gifts...." But he has taken an entire chapter (which of course was not in the original writing) to show that these

gifts are not something that is to be boasted about and that "there should be no schism in the body;..." (verse 25) I may very well have the talent or ability to speak well before a group. But that does not necessarily mean that God has given me one of the speaking gifts. On the other hand an individual may be "slow of speech" and be given the gift of preaching or teaching. God loves to use broken vessels for His glory and seldom uses man's natural ability. Of course, God will never give a gift to an individual that is contrary to His Written Word.

Our third verse in this study, found in the book of Romans, tells us that those that are free from sin have become servants to God. In the modern church movement we sometimes wonder who is the servant and who is the one that is serving. It is very popular today to claim that God has put his blessing on our efforts. We hear how God blessed human efforts of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and giving hospitality to strangers. We believe God's children should be involved in all of these things and that they are commanded in scripture. But if this is the end result we seriously doubt that God's blessing is upon it. As our verse of study states we are to have our "fruit unto holiness." Of course if holiness is not a part of our life we cannot be expected to share it with others. With the propogation of the unscriptural teaching, "Doctrine divides, the Spirit unites," true holiness is being lost in the earthly church. Certainly doctrine divides, it divides truth from error, but the Holy Spirit never unites the true with the false.

The final phrase in our study verse assures us that if we become servants of God, accept His will for our lives, we are assured everlasting life. No life ever ends. But "life" in the suffering of Hell is seen as "death" in the eyes of God. Have you accepted the gift of eternal life by accepting the shed blood of Jesus Christ and the waters of baptism? If so, have you truly accepted God's will for your life? The answer to these two questions have eternal consequences. Let each of us search our own heart for the answer.

James M. Hite 816 E. Birch St. Palmyra, PA 17078

## SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 15, 1928

JOHN THE BAPTIST AND THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER
F. B. Surbey

The International Sunday School lessons for six months are taken from the Life of Jesus as recorded by Mark. While Jesus is

the central figure of these lessons, we must not overlook that great character — John the Baptist — spoken of in the first lesson. He was a great character because of his preparation, and because of his mission, and because of his life.

God had a hand in the selection and preparation of John. The Holy Prophets of old foretold his coming. His parents were both righteous before God, walking in the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. Their prayers were heard, and the angel Gabriel sent to announce to them the birth of a son who should be great in the sight of the Lord, and filled with the Holy Ghost. This preparation of John very nicely illustrates the preparation the Sunday School teacher of today should have.

The teacher whose selection has been directed by God, who has righteous parents, and who is filled with the Holy Spirit, has the foundation necessary for a good teacher.

John's mission was to prepare the way of the Lord, to herald the coming of One mightier than he, to preach repentance and baptism, to tell men that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, and to point out to them the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

The Sunday School teacher also, must prepare the way for Christ in the hearts of the pupils. The rough places in their lives must be made smooth, and the crooked ways made straight. The evil of selfish inclinations and the worldly sins must be pointed out to them, and their results made known in such a way as to bring sorrow and repentance. Moral and Christian character must be developed by teaching honesty, purity, loyalty, humility, service, sacrifice, and the Christian graces of love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. Then they must be told that the kingdom of heaven is at hand now, and must be shown the way into the kingdom. Jesus must be pointed out to them not only as king of this kingdom but as king of our lives and the Savior of the world.

John's humility, obedience, and sacrifice are examples of the life the Sunday School teacher must live. He must live the simple life in all its phases so that he will not be overcome by the temptations of vanity, wealth and fame, but will rather be charmed by the desert atmosphere of meditation and communion with God. Neither must he forget his humility by seeking self-glory and esteem from the pupils. John, like all great men, put the cause he represented above himself. He said, "He must increase but I must decrease." So must the teacher consider himself nothing that Christ may become everything.

God approved the work of John, by sending Jesus to him to be baptized. Jesus compliments John by saying, "But what went ye

out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet." "For I say unto you, among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist."

John sacrificed, was imprisoned, and died a martyr for the cause. How does our service and sacrifice compare with his? Do the pupils know that the kingdom of heaven is at hand? Are they following the Lamb of God? What can Jesus say of us and our work?

#### LIFE'S PATHWAY

So many times in life I have wondered if there was an easy way on the pathway of life, as we travel every day. But the blessed Word of God tells us there is only one way — the straight and narrow way. But few travel it. There is a broad way that leads to destruction. Many will be on that road. So many think they know a way that is easier, but they find as they journey along, heartaches, sickness, pain, many trials and crosses too hard to bear.

Jesus is the only way. He leads to Heaven. Sometimes the path seems very steep. We think of our loving Saviour, as He tried to carry the cross, how hard it must have been. But He was doing it for you and me.

Many today have traveled life's pathway with a heavy load and many trials came as they traveled. If they would ask the Lord for help and guidance, He would help them.

As one thinks of the reward at the end, the path grows so much lighter. Let us never grow weary or faint by the way, let us put our trust and faith in Jesus and stay steadfast and true to the One who died for us. He will make our life lighter and guide us to the end of life's pathway. Let us stay on the road that is narrow, the one that leads to the Pearly Gates, where Jesus is waiting to greet all the faithful.

Sister E. M. Alltus

#### COMPANIONSHIP WITH GOD

Let us be mindful of the many good things that come from Almighty God. Starting in the Garden of Eden He created Adam from dust of the earth and said it was good. Then He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and pronounced it good. Then from Adam he made a helpmate for him and named her Eve. He pronounced His accomplished labor not only good but very good.

Every thing was good till Satan appeared with his deceitfulness and deceived Eve then Adam to disobey God's commandment. Here is where Satan made his first appearance and won his first victory with his deceitfulness. Satan had once been an angel of light in Heaven. God conquered him and cast him down. Upon the earth he won many victories in the time of the old dispensation. However the time came when the stain of sin was removed only by Christ the beloved Son of God. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for our redemption from sin.

Do we appreciate God's blessings as we should? We should let nothing separate us from the love of God through Christ our Lord. Noah, Elijah and Enoch each walked with God because they agreed with God. Walking with God is a wise choice to make. Let nothing in this sinful world separate us from it.

Through His great power we can always have His protection. God gave and Christ was willing to lay down His life for us. He commanded us to have love. He exemplified it for us when Christ was baptized in the River Jordan. A voice came from Heaven saying, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

Today many professing Christians are not standing against the wiles of the devil because they have not put on the whole armour of God.

Jesus said if you love Me keep My commandments. When we accept Jesus we also accept the love of God by keeping the commandments of the saving Gospel. We show love for both Father and Son and extend it to others, those in the Church, also to our neighbors, sinners and our enemies. We should set our affections on things that are above the perishing things of this world.

Moses said the Lord is my strength and song and He has become My salvation. He is my God and I will prepare Him an habitation. My father's God and I will exalt Him. We can become a companion of our Lord in this life and the eternal life to come. Our actions in life are substantial evidence as to whom we are giving most of our time, to God or to Satan. Do our works prove we have the Spirit of Christ within us, refering to the life of spirituality, the Trinity, God, Christ and the Holy Spirit are one.

God knows the very intents of our heart. Are we building on the solid rock Christ Jesus? Have we made our companionship with God from whom all blessings flow? Evil communications corrupt good manners. The Psalmist David said in speaking to the Lord, I am a companion of all that fear thee and of them that keep thy precepts. Evil company is to be wisely avoided by the Christian lest he become defiled by them.

When I was young and accepted Christ as my Saviour it was my desire for a companion who lived the plain, simple life, free from the fashions of the world. We are to marry only in the Lord. God always wanted His people not to become entangled with the yoke

of bondage. Two cannot truly walk together except they be agreed. If we want to be His disciples we must take up His cross and follow Him.

Whosoever seeth his brother have needs and shuts up his bowels of compasion against him how dwelleth the love of God in him. Take our hand and lead us Father for we cannot see our way to the land where are no storm clouds. How beautiful trying to walk in the footsteps of our Saviour, stepping in the light as He is in the light. This life will soon be past and only what we have done for eternity will last. If we have done the best we can in this life we will leave this world deeply indebted to God as we think of God's blessed values beyond measure and the stain of sin that was removed by Christ the beloved Son of God.

There are two kinds of love, spiritual and worldly love. Christ says that whosoever loves worldly things more than Him is not worthy of Him. We cannot be a companion of the Lord and live a sinful life. If we remain faithful and true to the Lord He will be our never failing companion in our earthly and spiritual needs and in the eternal life to come.

Brother J. F. Marks RD 3 Box 509 York, PA 17402

#### IN THE POTTER'S HANDS

To the Potter's house I went down one day, And watched him moulding a vessel of clay, And many a wonderful lesson I drew, As I noted the process that clay passed through.

Trampled and broken, downtrodden and rolled, To render it plastic and fit for the mold; How like to the clay that is human, I thought, Which in heavenly hands to God's image is brought.

There, self must be cast as the dust at His feet, Ere man is renewed and for service made meet. His pride must be broken; his self-will be lost, His self-esteem humbled, whatever the cost;

And all that he boasted of human display Must yield to God's hand and be taken away. Then, lo! There appeared a most delicate vase Of wonderful beauty and exquisite grace.

Was this the crude clay to the potter once brought? And long by His hands is such constantly wrought? So fashioned and formed by His marvellous skill To a vessel as planned by His wisdom and will.

No longer a trace of the earth or the clay, The fires of the furnace had burned them away, All praise to the Potter — to Him it is due, He is the one who made the vessel so true.

In His wonderful skill it was fashioned to be A vessel of glory which all may see. Thus souls lying still and content in God's hand, Who do not His wisdom or working withstand,

Are molded and fitted, a treasure to hold; Once clay, now transformed into purest of gold And thus God is working in grace day by day, Renewing, transforming, and molding His clay.

Selected from the Baptist Examiner by Sister Ruthanna Sauerwein

#### **NEWS ITEMS**

#### 1988 GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 4-8, 1988

The Lord willing 1988 General Conference will be held at Roxbury Camp Grounds, Roxbury, Pennsylvania.

More detailed information will be furnished at a later date.

#### NOTICE

All business for 1988 General Conference must be in the hands of the writing clerk by April 15.

Elder Ray R. Reed Box 12 Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

## LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

We are looking forward to a one week revival, April 17 to 24. Brother Fred Pifer from Dallas Center, Iowa is planning to be with us. Come and enjoy these meetings with us.

God is so good. He has done so much for us. At this time of year all of God's creation seems to be praising Him. Are we who are created with a living soul doing the same? Let's just Praise the Lord and may He truly revive us again!

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

## BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Lord willing, the Bethel Congregation plans to hold Lovefeast services, Saturday, April 23, beginning at 2 P.M. We invite all who can to come and worship with us.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1988**

April 3 - EASTER - John 20:1-31.

- 1. What does the resurrection mean to us? I Cor. 15:14.
- 2. Is the power of the resurrection real in our lives? Col. 3:1, Rom. 6:1-13.

April 10 - Abraham's Promised Inheritance - Gen. 15:1-21.

- 1. What was the secret of Abraham's righteousness? v. 6.
- 2. What prophecy is found in verse 13?

April 17 - Sarah and Hagar - Genesis 16:1-16.

- 1. Do we ever try to "help God" as Sarah did?
- 2. Why did God "allow" polygamy in the patriarch's families?

April 24 - God's Covenant with Abraham - Gen. 17:1-18; 9-14; 15-22.

- 1. What was the role of circumcision in God's covenant with Abraham?
- 2. What are the spiritual applications of circumcision for us today? Rom. 2:29; Col. 2:10-11.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1988

April 3 - Resurrection - John 20:1-31.

- 1. How should the resurrection effect us? I Cor. 15:14.
- 2. Have you been risen with Christ? Romans 6:1-13, Colossians 3:1.

April 10 - The ascension - Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11.

- 1. Why were the disciples so set on an earthly kingdom?
- 2. How is the ascension important to us? John 16:7.

April 17 - Lord's Supper - Matt. 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-22.

- 1. Compare the Passover feast to the Lord's Supper.
- 2. What blessings can we receive from the Lord's Supper?

April 24 - Holy Kiss - Matt. 26:48, Ro. 16:16, I Cor. 16:20, II Cor. 13:11-14, I Peter 5:14, I Thess. 5:26.

- What is the purpose/value of the holy kiss?
- 2. Are we ever guilty of the Judas kiss? Luke 22:47-48.

Paul Stump 10340 N. Diamond Mill Union. OH 45322

(USPS 054-780)

# **BIBLE MONITOR**

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**APRIL 1, 1988** 

NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

## AWAKE, O EARTH

Awake, awake, O earth! Thy many voices raise, And let the echoing hills Repeat the note of praise. Let all the isles rejoice, Let seas take up the strain, Christ from the dead hath come, He lives, He lives again.

Awake, awake, O earth! Forget the hour of gloom, When in thy shudd'ring breast Thy Maker claimed a tomb. Put off thy wintry robes For garb of joyous spring, Crown thee with lilies fair, To greet the risen King.

Bring treasures of the field, Bring leaf and blossom sweet, Thy choicest and thy best, Before His pierced feet. While all thy sons are glad, And tears are put away, Let youth and age alike Sing "Christ is ris'n today."

Lift up thy gates with praise, And robes of joy put on, The Lord of life and death Hath risen to His throne. He hath gone up on high, And giveth gifts to men; He lives, no more to die, He lives, He lives again.

- Lucy Randolph Fleming

## SPRINGTIME, EASTER AND THE RESURRECTION

Spring has come again to our area. After the cold of the winter, the warming of the air and the greening of the vegetation are pleasant to behold. The budding and blossoming of the trees give promise of another season of fruitful harvest. The ground can be prepared as the seedbed of another harvest. It is springtime, the earth is awakening to another year of productivity after a season of sleep and rest. The winter's cold and inactivity suggests death. Spring breaks forth with life. We do not know what lies ahead but Spring gives us hope.

Spring's resurrection gives evidence of life where death has been. The birds have returned from their winter vacation in warmer climes. The animals have bestired themselves from their dens of dormancy. The plants and trees have begun to show signs of reviving life. Spring has come and what a difference. Where death, decay and dormancy had been, life now abundantly reigns.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that the events commemorated at Easter happened at this very time of the year. Many Bible lessons are drawn from nature to illustrate Spiritual lessons for us. Our finite minds are better able to grasp that which is related to what we understand from nature. Easter is the resurrection, not only of the physical body of Jesus, but also of the Spiritual life made available to each of us.

The resurrection would have no meaning or power if it were not for the Person involved. Many have died. Good men have been martyred but none could die for another. None could bear other's sins. None could appease the justice of God. Only Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, could accomplish this through His death and

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resurrection. Being the Son of God, He lived a perfect life on this earth unlike any mortal. Being perfect He could offer Himself as a sacrifice without spot or blemish. A blemished offering would have been unacceptable to God. The gift was great because it was His and it was perfect. His gift was more than an agonizing death on the cross of Calvary. That gift was the sacrifice for sin but He wanted so much more for His children. He wanted a new life and victory for them. Victory was won when Jesus arose from the dead. He had overcome death, Hell and sin.

His resurrection is not only His own victory over the devil but it is the basis for our victory. We could never be victorious over Satan or sin in our own strength or by our own goodness. We need His resurrection to bring new life into our dead souls. Without His death and resurrection our souls are dead just like the winter. We need Spiritual life.

The rebirth that Jesus told Nicodemus about, was unintelligable to him. He could not understand how a person could go through the birth process again. Jesus was not speaking of a second natural birth. He was speaking of a Spiritual birth. That Spiritual birth is only possible through His death and resurrection. We must realize that we are lost and displeasing to the God whom we should please. Realizing we are lost, we must also realize our only hope is Jesus Christ, who can rescue us from our doom. The sins that separate us from God must be repented of. There must be a sorrow for the sins we have committed in the past and an intense desire to not engage in sin any more. We must desire to please God so we do not engage in those activities, displeasing to Him. In this contrite and sincere state of Spiritual desire we must make a public confession of our past rebellion and our present change of course. This comes when we are baptized.

Baptism by trine immersion pictures the resurrection. We are immersed in the likeness of his death but we come forth in a newness of life showing the power of His resurrection, alive in Christ. With the laying on of hands for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Spiritual life becomes the possession of the one who was formerly dead.

Spring brings a quickening of life all around us. We feel it in the air. We see it in the plants and animals. It is a wonderful time of the year.

Easter reminds us of the Gift of God. We realize the enormous weight of sin borne by Jesus on the cross. We glory in His victory evidenced by His resurrection. It is a glorious reminder.

As wonderful as Spring is and as glorious as Easter is, the best is that resurrection power demonstrated in our personal lives. That is the real glory of Easter.

Do you possess the power of His resurrection in your life?

#### **SEEKING HOLINESS**

Every member of the Dunkard Brethren Church faithfully promises each year to "work for an increase in holiness, both in ourselves and others." Yet our church goes from year to year with our teaching and outreach programs operating "about the same as last year." Are we diligently working toward an INCREASE in holiness?

Working toward an increase in holiness in ourselves could include addressing some of the following concerns. Families need strengthening. Young people need reinforcement on Biblical Principles. Husbands and wives need bonded together. Individuals need deeper commitments to the Lord. Church members need to hear and understand clearly the message of the Bible, and act on it. The men of our church need encouragement in the discipline of such areas as controlling lustful thoughts, getting into the Word of God, and proper stewardship of time and finances. The women of our church need encouragement in properly relating to their husbands, guiding their children, maintaining meaningful, consistent daily devotions, and surviving the rigors of the daily pressures of life.

Working toward an increase in holiness in others could address such challenges as: visiting or writing letters to prisoners, rebuilding homes in times of natural disaster, or funding valid mission efforts. Also, seeing that some refugees will have proper food and shelter and hear the Gospel message. Another way would be reaching tribes who never heard the Gospel Message with the good news that Jesus Saves!

We need to decide where we wish to be ten years, and fifty years from now. I feel strongly that we, as a Denomination, want to be on the front lines holding forth the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ until His return.

There is a need for the congregations of our Brotherhood to pull together, and to experience more interaction with each other. Satan is doing his very best to keep us divided and discouraged. Let's take a stand in the face of such temptation, and seek to meet needs both of our own members, and of others, working together for the furtherance of the Gospel. Not only will we be doing what God's Word tells us to do in reaching others for Jesus Christ, but we will be developing a sense of unity and bond of fellowship that is only found in working together.

One Biblical method for accomplishing this task can be found in Ezra 7:10, which states, "For Ezra had prepared his heart to SEEK the law of the Lord, and to DO it, and to TEACH in Israel statutes and judgments." We, as a church, need to seek the will of the Lord on this matter, do something about it, and then teach the will of the

Lord to our people and others. Let us purpose that the members of the Dunkard Brethren Church diligently seek out practical ways in which we can "work for an increase in holiness, both in ourselves and others", addressing such needs as strengthening families, reinforcing the belief of young people in the Bible, rebuilding homes in times of natural disaster, feeding refugees with both physical and spiritual food, or perhaps in some other creative way.

Brother Robert Lehigh

#### **ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

"Being Unequally Yoked with an Unbeliever"

The Christian life is designed for oneness... many personalities woven together by the harmony of like-mindedness. To be yoked with the world and her people is a masquerade in which unity and oneness becomes unattainable goals. The Scripture is dogmatic about having spiritual, vocational and marriage relationships with like-minded Christians.

II Corinthians 6:14-18 gives us a visual image of a team of oxen that are bound together. The Corinthians understood that the Old Testament law forbade the practice of yoking together animals of different species to draw burdens. (Deut. 22:10) Unequally yoked animals can't plow a field efficiently because they pull in different ways and to different degrees. Unequally yoked people don't make good marriage partners because they are different in important ways. A Christian cannot marry a non-Christian and be in the will of God. There are no allowances made, no options offered, no special cases permitted. Even if the relationship is only a dating time and never grows into marriage, you place yourself under the influence of a person who, at best, will not aid your growth in the Lord. God's detailed effort to explain why He forbide this kind of union is illustrated in the contrasting of light and darkness, Christ and Satan, righteousness and lawlessness, God's temple and idols. Believers and unbelievers are like water and oil... you can never successfully mix the two.

To be unequally yoked in business with a non-Christian partner is equally dangerous. It will be impossible to always make wise decisions based on Godly convictions when there is another or others involved in the decision making process who do not hold the same convictions. A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches. (Prov. 22:1) In a business, your reputation is no better than that of your partners. As long as King Jehoshaphat was alone, he made good decisions but when he formed a partnership with wicked King Ahab, he severely damaged his reputation. It was then that he received the rebuke of God.

If God has called you to accomplish a certain task, He will give

you financial resources to hire the skill and assistance to accomplish what you need to do for success. Business associates who are not Christian have different expectations and goals. They have different values and ideas on the method of reaching success. Have you thought that if God is to chasten an unbelieving business associate that you will be chastened along with him because of your alignment with him? You get decreased crop yields when you plant different kinds of seeds. You get different lastability when you combine different kinds of fabrics in sewing. You CAN reduce the pressure and aid in success when you are yoked in business only with believers.

To be yoked with a person who has less of a Christian commitment than you have is to be open to compromise and deterioration in holiness. Their goals, prejudices and outlook on life is radically different from yours. You are open to influences that can only yield regression and conflict. Obviously, a life of separation is not all problem free. You just have a greater chance of dependence on God when you are allied with those of like convictions and can solve problems with harmony and oneness of thought.

Lets briefly analyze the five rhetorical questions asked in II Cor. which shows the absurdity of mixing the spiritual with the unspiritual.

- 1. WHAT DO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND WICKEDNESS HAVE IN COMMON? These are fundamentally antagonistic forces and cannot be brought into a truly compatible union.
- 2. WHAT HARMONY IS THERE BETWEEN CHRIST AND SATAN? As Christians, God is our Father and Christ is our life. The unbeliever's father is Satan. We are controlled by a different power and harmony is unattainable.
- 3. WHAT DOES A BELIEVER HAVE IN COMMON WITH AN UNBELIEVER? A Christian's citizenship, interest and inheritance transcends this world. For the unbeliever, this world is the only reality he understands. Thus there is little basis for sharing the most basic of life's issues.
- 4. WHAT AGREEMENT IS THERE BETWEEN THE TEMPLE OF GOD AND IDOLS? Idolators will have no part in God's kingdom. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit and God's temple and idols are incompatible. There can be no common purpose here.

For ease of identification, please note the following classifications:

	<u>unbeliever</u>	believer
Destiny	Everlasting judgment	Eternal life
Source of power	The flesh	God's Spirit
Source of control	Satan	God, in Three Persons

Status Darkness Light
Condition Dead in sin Alive in Jesus Christ
Allegiance Worship the false gods of our day and living God

There is no state of neutrality. Even the moral, upstanding, nice guy is in the enemy's camp in the sight of God. Without the presence of the Holy Spirit, a non-Christian's mind is hostile toward God and is not able to subject itself to the laws of God. Ultimately, we must love the unbelievers but we can't be unequally yoked with them. God promises to fill any void caused by spiritual separation with Himself. Claim the promise.

Brother Len Wertz

## THE DOCTRINE OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

LAYING ON OF HANDS

58

Man in himself is mortal and weak
He is human, but not divine
When he accepts CHRIST as his MASTER
HE changes his life for all time.

59

Matt. 3:16 . . . . . With a person in the water upon his knees

Acts 8:38 . . . . Being baptized for the forgiveness of sin

HANDS ARE LAID UPON HIS HEAD

PRAYER is made for the SPIRIT to come in.

60

Heb. 6:1-2 ...... The doctrine of THE LAYING ON OF HANDS Acts 6:3-8 ...... Should be practiced in our day,

When men are called into CHURCH OFFICE, The BIBLE teaches, "THAT'S THE WAY."

61

I Tim. 4:14 ..... SPIRITUAL gifts are given to man, Prophesying, preaching, teaching All is according to GOD'S plan.

62

When the ELDERS, MINISTERS, DEACONS
Are chosen to work for the LORD,
Hands are laid upon their heads
In OBEDIENCE to GOD'S WORD.

#### NON SWEARING

63

	00
Rom. 6:4	As we walk in newness of life
	We are not to take an oath,
Matt. 5:36	We are not to hold up our right hand
	And swear, "We are telling the truth."
	64
Matt. 5:37	Our "ayes" are to be "ayes", our "nays", "nays"
	The truth we are always to speak,
Titus 2:7	A Obstation obstation of a Uff
Titus 2.7	That others, the same life would seek.
	65
Matt. 5:44	Neither should we use profanity
Matt. 5.44	We are admonished, "Swear not at all",
Col. 4:6	Our speech should be pure and clean
COI. 4.6	Wholesome words from our tongue should
	fall.

#### NO ATONEMENT - NO ASSURANCE

Brother Paul R. Myers

"Jesus is A son of God, not THE Son of God, and if we try hard enough, we can be like Him in every aspect." This belief is peddled door-to-door by a certain group. Another such group says "God was once as we are now, and is an exalted man." This same group has very confusing beliefs about Jesus, which apparently are designed to downgrade Jesus and to prove that man can earn his own salvation. They do not believe in justification by faith in Christ and His atoning blood.

If there were no Jesus, then there would be no atonement, and if there were no atonement, there'd be no assurance of salvation. The word 'atonement' means "the bringing together of two who have been enemies into a relationship of peace and friendship." This reconciliation is made possible because of Jesus. "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ." II Cor. 5:18a. Because of sin, we deserve to die, but Jesus became our substitute and took on Himself the penalty which was rightfully ours.

Salvation is God's gift to us and it can't be earned. See Eph. 2:8-9. If it were possible to earn salvation, Jesus wouldn't have had to die for us. But He did have to die, and He did have to atone for our sins in order to meet God's requirements. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. No one, not even the best person in the world, could atone for our sins. It

had to be Jesus.

"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." I John 2:2. We can go to Church, be baptized, live a good life, and so forth but unless we've received Jesus as God intended, our own good works are meaningless. None of this, no matter how good, can atone for our sins. It all depends on Jesus and there is no atonement for anyone's sin without Him.

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin: that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." II Cor. 5:21. The reason Jesus was able to atone for our sins and make peace with God for us is because He is sin-free now and always has been. Jesus is the only one who could meet the requirements of purity, holiness, sinlessness. Because Jesus gave His life for us, we can be forgiven and receive His righteousness. Again, without Him, we are nothing and "all our righteousness are as filthy rags." (Isa. 64:6)

"Without the shedding of blood there is no remission" of sin (Heb. 9:22). When our sins are remitted, they have been canceled, pardoned, forgiven. They no longer stand between us and God. Sin won't go away by itself; it must be dealt with, and God took care of the problem through the atoning blood of Christ. God cannot accept us in our sinful state, but when the blood of Christ has been applied to our hearts and we are cleansed, then we can be His.

I John 1:7 says "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." This is a promise good for all time because it is present tense — for right now. The effectiveness of Jesus' blood has not diminished with time. He made the sacrifice, once and for all, and it takes care of all sin, not just certain ones or certain amounts.

If you will read Romans 5:1-11, you will see that God's love is the reason for our salvation. If you will read John 3:16, you will find the same thing. Salvation is not man's idea. Man would be quite contented to go on in sin, doing whatever he pleases, but God in His loving mercy wants us to be set free from sin. He wants us to be reconciled to Him, and that is why Jesus died on the Cross to make the atonement for us. God's love makes it possible for us to believe, to have peace with Him and within our hearts. None of this can be earned; it is a gift of God's love.

"Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." John 1:17. Various religious groups (not Christian) present lies instead of truth and make their own rules for achieving favor with God. But we must accept God's way for reconciliation, not attempt to make our own way. With Jesus, there is atonement for sin, and with atonement, there is assurance of salvation. This is God's way and it is the only way to peace with Him, a fact no man can change.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

#### SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 1, 1928
THE LORD'S SUPPER
Reuben Shroyer

"Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another." (I Cor. 11:34)

That there is an ordinance in the church called the Lord's Supper is admitted by all Bible readers. The church at Corinth came together to eat the Lord's Supper. (I Cor. 11:20) True it is that their eating of it was irregular and Paul reproves them for it. For in eating everyone taketh before other his own supper. (Verse 21) Paul teaches them in the text when they come together to eat they should wait one on the other and thus not come together and eat the Lord's Supper in such a disorderly manner and bring condemnation upon themselves. God is a God of order, and in keeping the ordinances of His house it should be done in order.

There are those who believe and practice that the Lord's Supper is the bread and cup. This position, we maintain, is not in harmony with teachings of the Word. The Lord's Supper is a full meal to be eaten in the assembly of the Lord's people BEFORE and in connection with the loaf and cup. "And he took bread and gave thanks and brake it, and gave unto them, saying. This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup AFTER SUPPER..." (Luke 22:19-20) Paul, in his letter to the church at Corinth, tells them how Jesus did, and he says: "I received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you." (I Cor. 11:23) Here Paul gives his authority. THE LORD. "The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks he brake it and said: take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me. In like manner also the cup AFTER SUPPER." Notice, this was done after supper. (I Cor. 11:24-25) Here we have Luke and Paul teaching exactly what we contend for. The Supper was a MEAL and the bread and wine were taken AFTER SUPPER. The above clearly shows that the bread and cup are not the Lord's Supper, for how could they be the Supper and be taken AFTER SUPPER? Let us examine still further and see what Matthew, Mark and John say: "And as they were EATING, Jesus took bread and blessed it and brake it and gave it to the Disciples, and he took the cup and gave thanks." (Matt. 26:26-27) "And as they did eat Jesus took bread, and he took the cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them." (Mark 14:22-23) John tells us that the Supper was prepared. How Jesus rises FROM SUPPER and washed his Disciples' feet. Afterwards he tells how Christ sat down to the table again and ate

this very meal with his Disciples that Matthew and Mark tell about. To show that it was the same meal, please note the following: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me." (John 13:21) "Verily, I say unto you, one of you which eateth with me shall betray me." (Mark 14:18) "Verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me." (Matt. 26:21) At the same time and meal the traitor is pointed out. "He it is to whom I shall give a sop when I have dipped it." (John 13:26) "It is one of the twelve that dippeth with me in the dish." (Mark 14:20) "He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish." (Matt. 26:23) Again at this same meal and time he tells Peter he will deny him. "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, the cock shall not crow till thou hast denied me thrice." (John 13:38) "And Jesus saith unto him, verily I say unto thee that this day, even this night before the cock crow twice thou shalt deny me thrice." (Mark 14:30) The above circumstances are related by all three of the evangelists as occurring immediately after Christ had eaten this meal with his disciples, and after eating the meal took the bread and cup. From the above it is evident fact that the bread and cup ARE NOT THE LORD'S SUPPER. Nowhere in the Bible are they called the Lord's Supper.

If the bread and cup are not the Lord's Supper, WHAT ARE THEY? "The cup of blessing which we bless is it not the communion of the body of Christ." (I Cor. 10:26) Paul clearly teaches that the bread and cup are the COMMUNION. We partake of them in commemoration of the death and sufferings of Christ.

In our investigations on the subject we have the following summary:

- 1. There is a Lord's Supper.
- 2. The bread and cup are nowhere called the Lord's Supper in the Scriptures.
- 3. The bread and cup are called the communion.
- 4. The bread and cup were taken after supper. (Luke 22:19; I Cor. 11:25)
- 5. The bread and cup cannot be the Lord's Supper, and be TAKEN AFTER SUPPER.

Then as the inspired writers teach us about the Supper, and communion, and feet washing, and teach it as being in connection with the communion. Who would have the power to change them? Disregard them? Either of them? John, referring to the circumstances of the evening when Christ instituted these ordinances, says: "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

The bread and cup, cannot be the Lord's Supper, all those who partake of the bread and cup ONLY surely have no Lord's Supper. If Paul would reprove the church at Corinth for eating the Lord's Supper out of order, what would he say today of a church that does

not keep the Lord's Supper at all?

It is argued by many that this meal which Christ ate with his disciples was the Jewish Passover. Luke calls this meal SUPPER. "Likewise also the cup after supper." John calls it supper, and says it was before the Passover feast. Now before the feast of the Passover, he rises from supper. Paul called it a supper. In the same manner also the cup AFTER SUPPER. (R.V.)

Let us examine and see if the Passover had yet been kept. After Christ ate this meal with his disciples, he goes to the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed to his Father. Here he was met by Judas, with a multitude, with swords and staves. (Mark 14:13) They took him first to Annas, then to Caiaphas, and from Catiaphas to the judgment hall. "Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment, and it was early. And they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover." (John 18:28) This was early in the morning and Christ had eaten the supper the evening before. Again Pilate went out to them and asked: "What accusation bring ye against this man?" He goes out the second time and says: "I find in him no fault at all, but ye have a custom that I should release unto you one at the Passover. Will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?" Then cried they all again, saying: "Not this man, but Barrabas." (John 18:38-40)

The above makes it clear that the meal, which Christ ate with his disciples was not the Passover.

The Passover did not occur until the next evening. In point of time, twenty-four hours after Christ ate the supper with his disciples. Paul tells the church at Corinth, "When ye come together to eat." Eat what? Why, the Lord's Supper.

When ye come together to eat the Lord's Supper, tarry one for the other.

After eating the supper, then partake of the communion and shew forth his death and sufferings.

May we always earnestly contend for the Faith once delivered unto the Saints.

#### **OBITUARY**

#### CLYDE SCHULTZ

Bro. Clyde Eugene Schultz was born August 13, 1905, at St. Paul, Minnesota and passed away January 29, 1988 at Turlock, California at the age of 82 years, 5 months and 16 days.

He was married to Zetta Shotwell, December 24, 1924 at Doxey, Oklahoma. Clyde and Zetta resided in Glendora, California where he worked in the citrus producing and packing industry for twenty

years. In 1944 he moved with his wife and three children to Turlock, California where he was a foreman and carpenter for thirteen years. They moved to Van Nuys, California in 1957, where he worked for Western Hydraulics. After retiring in 1967 they moved back to Turlock where he spent the remainder of his life.

Bro. Clyde was baptized in 1922 and later was ordained a Deacon in the Church of the Brethren. He became a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church in 1944 and was ordained a Minister and later an Elder. He was faithful in his Christian life.

Bro. Clyde and Sis. Zetta were supporters of the Torreon Navajo Mission at Cuba, New Mexico. They sponsored a Navajo boy at the Mission School. They had taken supplies to Torreon several years.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife Zetta, three children: Eleanor Hendrickson of Turlock, California; Evelyn Fullerton of Montrose, Colorado and Claude Schultz of Turlock, California, one foster son, Jerry Carr of Fresno, California, ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

His love and concern for his neighbors and friends is well known. He leaves a memory to his Church of his faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His family will remember him as a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Funeral services were held February 2, 1988 at the Pleasant Home Dunkard Brethren Church. Elder Rudy Cover assisted by Bro. Michael Wray conducting the services. Interment was in the Turlock Memorial Park Cemetery with Elder Hayes Reed conducting the graveside service.

## CARD OF THANKS

The family wishes to express their thanks for the help given them during his illness at the hospital and during the present time of bereavement.

# BRIGHT DAY

Every morning when I awake, I thank the Dear Lord for another night of rest and for the light of another day, and His loving protection during the night. Everyone should start his day this way. Then the day will be bright and beautiful. It may be raining, the sun may be shining, but that talk with Jesus will lighten our burdens during the day. Our Blessed Saviour is so wonderful to His dear children. All the things He gives us are free like the beautiful sunrise and the glorious sunset.

Let us not worry about things that may never come, but let us meet each day secure in the knowledge God is always near to lead

and protect us each step of the way. If we want to be happy let us look to Him in faith believing and He will help us. When doubt arises and fear dismays, He has promised to always be near.

Years ago I was told by a dear one how lonely she was when she had to leave and be far away from the dear brothers and sisters in Christ, because of illness in the family. For weeks and months she was so lonely, finally some of the dear ones came to see her. She said no one will ever know what joy there is when some of God's children come to see and visit the lonely. She said then she began to think we are never alone when we belong to Christ as He is always near and is so wonderful when we feel so alone.

If you know Him and love Him and do His blessed will He will help you have a bright day. Many missionaries go far from their native land. They are never alone because they are helping others to find the Lord Jesus Christ. Their days are filled with sunshine, never longing for their homeland for their work among the heathen saving souls and labouring for the Master is very real to these dear ones. Pray for those who are carrying forth the Gospel, help them to lighten some poor soul so they too can see a brighter day ahead.

Let each of us put our future in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ and sooner or later, we will see that bright day and be able to see our Blessed Lord.

Sister E. M. Alltus

## GRANDPA WEIMER AT THE PUMP

The Plevna Church in Indiana was my home church when I was growing up. The church has a full basement and sits up off the ground. In the back of the church there are two classrooms. Outside of the one classroom and to the south is the old pump which was a favorite spot for many and a good place to get a drink.

One day, I cannot remember how old I was but perhaps a preteen, I was passing through the south classroom and looked out the window. As I looked, down there were Grandpa Weimer and two other brethren. Grandpa was down on one knee praying and the other two were standing quietly as Grandpa prayed.

There was no doubt a problem and Grandpa needed help and he took it to the Lord. Evidently, there was an urgency in the matter which caused him to pray on the spot.

What I observed has stuck with me and made a good impression on me. Can there be a better picture in my memory than of Grandpa praying at the pump at Plevna?

Sister Mildred Skiles R. 2 Box 8, Cuba, NM

## **NEWS ITEMS**

### PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans a Spring Lovefeast, April 9. There will be services nightly beginning April 6 through April 10. Bro. Edward Johnson will be the speaker for this series of services.

We invite all to come worship with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

## GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation plans to host District Meeting for the third district on April 11. We will have usual worship services beginning at 11:00 on Saturday, April 9, and Lovefeast following in the evening. There will be usual services on Sunday, April 10, with District Meeting on Monday.

Everyone is welcome.

Sister Mary Lou Kasza, Cor.

### WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation is planning to have Lovefeast services May 1, 1988. We invite each one to come and worship with us. Pray for us.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

### THANK YOU

I take this means to thank each and everyone who sent me cards, letters, pictures and gifts for my 84th birthday. May God's blessings rest and abide on each of you.

Brother Paul R. Myers

## THANK YOU

Many thanks for all your cards, gifts and prayers while I was in the hospital and here at home. It means so much to have Brothers and Sisters that have a concern for you in times of illness. May God bless you!

Sister Ada G. Mohler

## THANK YOU

To all the Brethren and Sisters who expressed your love in so many ways, along with your cards and letters. We can only thank you but may God bless you all for making our 50th Anniversary such a wonderful time.

Brother Edward and Sister Pauletta Johnson

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

VOL. LXVI

APRIL 15, 1988

NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

## WHO DOESN'T WANT?

Who doesn't want the love of God— Or at least a tiny part— To be bestowed upon them In the center of their heart?

Who doesn't want it to shine forth As an everlasting light, To shed its beams all around— Even through the darkest night?

God will give His light to those Who desire to shun all wrong. Take His hand and walk with those Who will sing redemption's song.

For sweet are His promises
To those who His precepts keep.
Some day they'll rise to heaven,
Be counted among His "sheep."

Sister Irene Stout R. 1 Box 160 Wabash, IN 46992

## A WORK FOR EACH ONE

The Trinity is a difficult concept for our human minds to grasp. We cannot understand how one can be three and three can be one. Many because they do not understand simply reject the whole concept by subtle arguments.

Christians accept the existance of the Trinity by faith. If their faith is large enough to accept this basic Biblical doctrine then they can have enough faith to practice the other teachings of the Bible, even if they do not fully understand them. Our finite minds are unable to understand God's mind and His counsels. We cannot counsel God. We must believe Him even though all around would question and deny Him.

To increase our understanding, the Trinity might be compared to an egg. The egg has three main parts — the shell, the white and the yolk. Each part is distinct yet the egg is not whole if one part is missing. Each part has its own composition and performs a particular function. The three Persons of the Trinity — the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are each distinct. Each has a particular work to do. Yet the Trinity would be incomplete without all Three Persons.

Each Person of the Godhead has a specific work to do which could not be accomplished by either of the Others. The Trinity was present at the baptism of Jesus, the Spirit was in the form of a dove, while the Father testified of being well pleased by His Son. This points out the separateness of each person yet their union in one purpose. The Three were united in the creation of the world. The Father continues to guide the affairs of men and nations. The Son came to Earth to minister to the physical and Spiritual needs of

## THE BIBLE MONITOR

APRIL 15, 1988

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men, offered Himself as the perfect sin sacrifice, resurrected victoriously from the grave and ascended back to His deserved place in Heaven, where He is the believer's Advocate. The Spirit guides believers in whom He dwells and directs in the work of the Church.

The Trinity is an example for Christians. The Christian's entrance into the church through baptism by trine immersion is another testimony of Father, Son and Holy Ghost. As the newly immersed Christian is indwelt by the Holy Ghost, he is directed in his daily walk in ways pleasing to God. The Father expects His will to be carried out in the Christian's life. His severity is only broken by His love and grace that will accept the Son's sacrifice. Each believer is the abiding place of the Spirit yet that one Spirit cannot lead individuals in divergent ways. This unifies believers into the Church where His will can be carried out in ways visible to the world.

Just as each Person of the triune Godhead has a work to do, so each member of the Church has a work to do. God has created each one in a unique way. Each has certain talents and characteristics. God expects these gifts to be used to promote the earthly Church and to bring glory to Him through the salvation of souls and striving toward perfection in the Christian life. Because our talents differ we together can accomplish what God has intended for us to do. Our talents can mesh with others just like gears in a machine. What one member lacks another will be able to supply—whether a temporal or Spiritual need.

God has given these diverse talents with the expectation that they will be used. The servant who hid his talent was very severely condemned because he attempted nothing, consequently he accomplished nothing and he gained nothing. It is necessary to use the talents given to get the work done. Without an effort there will be no gain.

Too often the work in the Church is done by the willing few who are often criticized by the unwilling many. They are criticized for being power hungry and glory-seekers. If the unwilling were to become willing workers they would find they could not only forward the Church's work but also enjoy blessings that they never have known before.

The work needed to be done within the Church comes in many forms. Some service is public, other is private and even unknown to others. Yet those who serve in public offices may not be as effective in the private works also needed to be done. While the public offices are needed and established by the Word of God, the work of the unseen or little seen is still important. The private laborers may free those who serve publicly to work more effectively

or they may lay the ground work upon which the public work can be done.

Each person of the Godhead has an office and a work to do. Each member likewise has a work to do. Are we each doing the work that we have been prepared to do? Are we doing our best whether it be public or hidden?

What is your work? Are you doing it?

## MY DEAR DAUGHTERS

Last night I looked in your bedroom and saw you both fast asleep — soft pillows under your heads, blankets tucked up under your chin. A soft light shone on your faces and I stood there awhile thinking...

Oh, the joy when we first saw you! Daddy and I had so earnestly prayed that we would be granted the privilege of having you and when we first saw the precious loan that God had given us straight from heaven, we were left speechless. Even though one of you was our first child and one the fourth, neither of you were loved the less. How our hearts raced with thrill, gratefulness, and joy when we first held you in our arms.

Seemingly in the blink of an eye you were crawling, feeding yourself with a spoon, walking, talking, and growing up. So quickly our babies leave our arms and I tremble to think how fast these early years fly — these years when you're so moldable. What am I doing with each precious day I have with you? Each short fleeting moment that I must be using to instil God's Word and truth in your lives?

I know the years will continue to fly. You will travel through all twelve years of school in but a moment of time. The teenage years will keep you but for a little and then most likely you will be off to establish your own home and watch your own children grow up.

But girls, listen, I have some things that I have to tell you. I can't let the pressures of life and the frantic schedule and the quickly passing moments keep me from telling you some things that are very important to me. I have dreams and goals for you. I know I need to share them with you throughout your lives but I want them down in writing so you can take them and keep them...

I look at your eyes which are now closed for the night and I pray that you would be careful with those eyes... That you would use them to see the good in people... That you would close them to the things that would make your heart and mind feel dirty... That you would use them to read God's Word... That you would let them feast on things that are good and wholesome for your mind.

I look at your ears and pray that they would always want to hear of God and His ways. I hope they'll want to be at every church service where they can hear and learn more about Him. I pray that somehow gossip and slander could never penetrate those eardrums but that somehow they would screen that out. Oh, that you'd always only want to hear good, edifying, uplifting things and not dwell on the inevitable bad. I pray you'd only desire Godly, holy music to waft through those ears and that you'd never find any delight in the devil's trash.

I look at your lips that are now still and slightly parted and pray that somehow God would take that tongue and only let it speak those things that are right. That you lips would only move to praise, bless, honor and glorify God and encourage His people. But I know I can't expect God to do that. You have two natures within you and you will have to make the choice as to which nature you allow to rule. I pray you'd choose to speak kindness to your friends in childhood, to be loving to your brothers, to pour out thanks to God for all things. "Oh, God, keep their tongues!"

Your little hands that are so busy throughout the day are now idle but I think of all that waits to be accomplished by those hands. I think of the great amounts of work that will need done - chores when you're little, then schoolwork, housework, and harder tasks as you grow older. The weeds that will need pulled, hoes used till you get callouses, and my thoughts go on and on. Then I pray that those hands would be used to serve people. That your hands would embrace the lonely and hurting, wipe away the tears from children's eyes, steady the faltering body of old people (perhaps even mine someday), hand a bouquet of fresh cut flowers to some widow who thought no one remembered, and bind up the wounds of the broken and bleeding. Oh, girls, I want you to SERVE. I want you to earnestly pray that the Lord would show you what you can do to share His love and His Word in the little part of the world you'll occupy. Solomon says it so beautifully when he says "Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates." Girls, I pray that you'll be that type of woman. That the works you do would touch other people's lives for the Lord and that it would be just like a pebble dropped in a pond — the ripples would go on and on.

Your little bodies lie still now but I look at your being and pray that you would keep that body clean and pure for God. I hope you'll desire to care for it in a good way physically — that you'll eat the right foods and get exercise, but so much more critical it is that you keep your body morally pure. I think of how black sin is and how it grieves God every time a dear young girl defiles her body by

being too free with boys and then I think of how glorious it is when a bride stands at the alter with a body as clean and pure as the white wedding dress she wears. Oh girls, how I cry out to God that I could teach you in such a way that you would purpose in your hearts to be one of those girls. They are rare, but oh, so beautiful.

Every girl likes to look nice and be attractive but girls, I desire so much more that your actions and inner being would be more beautiful than your face. I want you to be neat and tidy and bring glory to God by your appearance but I don't care if you never qualify as a beauty queen contestant. It's just my desire that you would grow up to be one of the virtuous women that Solomon wrote about. If it's in God's plans for you to ever marry I want your husband to be able to feel like he's found a whole chestful of sparkling jewels when he finds you.

Another tremor passes through my body as I realize all the lives — all the generations — that will be influenced by my children and their descendants and how much responsibility lies on my back! Oh, how critical it is that we train you to fear the Lord! (I want to thank God again for giving me a husband who is such a good helper in parenting. How thankful you should be for your Daddy,

girls.)

I love you girls — you are handmade by God. There are no other girls in this entire world that are exactly like you. God's work for you is a bit different than anyone else's because you are different and your abilities are different. Don't fail your Creator. He has a beautiful plan for your life. All He needs from you is a yielded heart and life. Someday you will reign with Him forever if you faithfully live for Him in this life! I pray we'll have the family circle unbroken in Heaven.

Your Mother, Sister Sally Meyers

# ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"The Patience of Jesus"

We frequently hear that a person has the "patience of Job" and certainly he is a great Biblical example for us as we desire to have that character quality. But the greatest example of patience in the Bible is illustrated in the life of Jesus Christ.

I have heard people say, "Lord, give me patience and give it to me right now!" That is the attitude of the day. All ages of individuals from youth to the elderly need to work on this area of their lives.

The Lord frequently requires that His children develop right

qualities before He uses them in a dynamic way. Sometimes we are even kept in obscurity... as was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness preparing and developing the great qualities that he would later put to practice in his ministry in the Jordan Valley. Moses trained for forty years and overcame some traits that would have kept him from being the dynamic leader that he was to become. Both of these men experienced the necessity of developing patience as a result of their environment. In reality, Jesus trained for thirty years and patiently awaited the time He would announce His Messiahship and unleash the most vital ministry the world was ever to know.

Do you sometimes pace the floor because God is not in a hurry? Wait on the Lord. At age twelve, Jesus was conversing intelligently with the learned doctors in the temple. His sensitive nature noticed the shallow hypocricy of these men but He continued to observe, learn and absorb. He noticed how they were most concerned about outward ceremony, the borders on their cloak, gaining the upper seats in the sanctuary and at the feasts but they were totally void of concern for outcasts and for the lost and lonely. But Jesus waited... and waited... and finally He was where God would have Him to be to effectively minister to the needs of those who had been neglected by the religious hierarchy. Even after He selected His disciples, He found it necessary to be patient and wait to tell them of His upcoming death on the cross and resurrection.

Enemies plotted Jesus' death prematurely. Attempts were made on His life. Opponents took up stones to cast at Him and His townfolk tried to push Him off of a cliff. HIS TIME WAS NOT YET COME. (John 7:6) With calm deliberation, He waited for the appointed hour. On the cross He died at the pre-determined moment... not a second early or late. No man took His life from Him but He freely gave it. This was patience supreme.

Jesus was never in too much of a hurry to help someone. He was poised and calm in spirit. Those who will follow that example will take time for meditation, prayer, the Word, helping someone or just talking to the lonely.

Jesus came to earth to pay the penalty for our sins. He had a dynamic yet simple plan to train twelve men who would carry on the central core of His ministry after His return to Heaven. He taught them day by day but they learned very slowly. How patient He was with them. They were always present to hear Him pray, to be taught by Him, to see His miracles and yet they didn't understand a lot about His objective. Jesus spent a lot of time explaining this teachings and parables and He did it with patience and grace.

The very night after Jesus fed the five thousand He was required to be patient with the Twelve as He walked to them on the Sea of

Galilee. How soon they had forgotten His ability to work miracles.

Jesus proved His power over and over again but ultimately He had to pray by Himself in the Garden of Gethsemane because the disciples fell asleep... not realizing the magnificence and importance of the moment. Jesus was patient with them. "Sleep on," He gently spake, as they were overcome by their "human nature."

In patience Jesus had washed the disciples' feet in the upper room. Ultimately, He was to show the greatest patience on the cross. Those who accused Him and rebuked Him could easily have been destroyed in a moment but He forgave them. Even after His resurrection we see great patience shown toward those who would not accept the fact that He had risen.

I believe the cross is not only a symbol of the crucifixion of our Lord. It does illustrate our atonement but it is also a great monument to patience... the patience of Jesus.

Brother Len Wertz

## SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 15, 1928

THE ONE THING NEEDFUL

J. W. Keiser

The greatest thing on earth is the soul of man. Its value is beyond comparison with everything on earth, though it were possible for man to gain all the riches of the world and lose his soul, it would profit him nothing. Then if the soul is of such inestimable value he should be seeking for something that would be safe when he is called to give account of his stewardship in the great beyond. Jesus gives us a very good example in that case of Mary and Martha. Martha was cumbered about much serving and says to the Savior, "Dost thou not care that my sister has left me to serve alone bid her therefore that she help me." But Jesus said to her, "Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10:40-42. Then it is that one thing needful that we all should be in possession of in order that we may have these immortal principles saved in the day of judgment. That one thing we need more than anything else is "pure religion." Many false religions are out in the world today and if we are not watching we will be drawn away from that true religion that the Master taught when he was here in the world. The Savior says that not everyone that saith unto me "Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:21. Also he says many will say unto me in that day, have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name cast out devils and in thy name done many wonderful works, but he will profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity; this will be an awful sentence to hear when it will be too late.

James says pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this to visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions and to keep himself unspotted from the world. (James 1:27) But we see many spots in the world today that are leading the people down the broad way. We mention the spot of pride and fashion and we not only see this in the world but church members that at the time of their baptism have promised to renounce Satan with all his sinful ways and live faithful until death. But today, they are allowing the pride and fashions of the world to crowd out that pure religion so that they cannot be recognized from the world, forgetting that Paul has said "Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." Il Cor. 6:17-18. This one thing needful will prepare us to stand all of the scoffs and scorns of a wicked world and quide our feet in the ways of peace and holiness that the world may recognize us as the followers of the lowly Nazarene. Again Christ says to his followers, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good work and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16. Then in every condition in life, we should let our light so shine that those with whom we associate may recognize we are in possession of something that is far superior to that which they enjoy and by that means we may be able to draw them into the church and be the means of them also being in possession of that one thing needful, the true religion of our Lord Jesus Christ, that one thing needful will prepare us for every event and duty of life. It will prepare fathers and mothers to bring up their children in the nuture and admonition of the Lord that they may be qualified and prepared for the Master's work when they come to mature years. Solomon says, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. The great cry today is, give the young in the church something to do. There are the old in years that cannot get to the service. There is a great opportunity for the young to go to their homes on the Lord's day, sing the beautiful songs of Zion, pray with them, remind them of the happy seasons you have enjoyed in the service of the Lord together, and of the prospects of meeting in the great beyond where we may enjoy each other's society throughout eternity and I will guarantee you will be amply paid for your time spent in encouraging them in their

declining years. Then may our motto be, as the poet says:

Oh for a close walk with God, A calm and heavenly frame, A light to shine up the road, That leads me to the Lord's domain.

# WHEN FAITH SEEMS TO FAIL

Most of us have read about the great men and women of faith of years gone by who never seem to lack strength in the hour of need. If we are honest with ourselves, most of us will have to admit that there are times when our faith seems to lack that strength. We confess that we can relate very well to the writer of Psalms 119:25-32. We would like to look at these verses and make some observations hopefully guided by the Holy Spirit.

Verse 25 reads, "My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word." It is much easier to "shout the victory" when all is going well in our lives. But when tragedy strikes one of our loved ones or a life time spouse tells you that you are no longer loved it is much more difficult to praise the Lord. At times like these or similar happenings, we, like the Psalmist, feel as if our "soul cleaveth unto the dust." Instead of reaching up to the glories of Heaven, we realize more fully that we are mere bodies of dust with failures and pain. We are prone to ask why God has allowed things to come into our lives that take away the joy of living. And we do not always receive a clear answer in this life.

Verses 26 and 27 read, "I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes. Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works." The Psalmist is seeking mental and spiritual healing from the Lord. He rightly realizes the need to confess any sin we may have in our lives. When the sorrows of life come our way we are usually less judgemental of others at this time. We are made more aware of our own weakness and failings. All "self-righteousness" is left, at least temporarily, in the dust of despair.

Verse 28 reads, "My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word." The Psalmist seems to go into a deeper valley of depression even after confessing his sins and needs before the Lord. Is that ever true in your life? We confess that sometimes the heavens seem to be closed to our cry for help. Along with this seems to go a time of great temptation. We yearn to have the faith of Job at this time. His words in Job 13:15 have been a great source of strength for us over the years. "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:..." But in place of this we can relate to the song writer who penned the words, "Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,

prone to leave the God I love." It is not always sickness or sorrow that drives us to this place of hopeless feeling but the daily routine of life can have such an effect on us. We confess that we have had an increasing feeling of lack of zeal to share the truth of God's word with others. Perhaps it is only us, but we feel a great time of apathy has overtaken the vast majority of those within the earthly church. When Christians assemble together the talk varies from sports in some gatherings to the weather and things in general in other gatherings. While we are personally opposed to Christians being involved in professional sports this is not our major concern at this point. What is our concern is that there seems to be very little if any time left for spiritual conversations that help to uplift and encourage one another.

Verses 29 and 30 read, "Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgements have I laid before me." We believe the Psalmist is going beyond merely speaking lies in these verses. "The way of

lying" would seem to indicate living a lie.

In Matthew 7 where Christ talks about "Judge not, that ye be not judged," in verse five we read the following words. "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." We would all loudly protest being called a hypocrite, and we certainly do not wish to justify a hypocritical spirit. Yet are there not times in our lives that we are less than honest in what we say compared with what we actually do? We confess this is true of us. We have "chosen the way of truth." For us that is the way of Christ who declared Himself to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. But do we honestly compare our lives with the perfect example? We are convinced that one of the greatest weaknesses within the earthly church is a lack of honest self examination.

The final two verses read, "I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O Lord, put me not to shame. I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart." We desire the promises of God in our lives but do we truly desire to stick "unto thy testimonies, O Lord?" We must realize that we can only be true to our Lord when we allow Him to enlarge our heart with His Truths. Why do we desire to do as little as we can and still enter Heaven's gates instead of trying to follow all the commandments of our Lord given in His Holy Bible?

We would like to quote one more verse from this longest chapter in the Bible, verse 50. "This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me." When faith seems to fail we must remember that the Word of God can not fail. If you have never acquired this faith through the shed blood of Jesus Christ you are

without any real hope or comfort. For those who are a part of the family of God we must truly put our faith in the Rock of Ages in place of the sand of human effort. Truly He is our help in times of need. Though faith may seem to fail, the One who we have our faith in will never fail us. Let us desire to never fail Him.

James M. Hite 816 E. Birch St. Palmyra, PA 17078

## SOME PRECEPTS FOR PREACHERS

Preaching without emotion is not preaching, but beware of the cheap substitute. Synthetic unction may impress simple souls, but it corrupts the preacher.

Remember Peniel and wrestle with the great themes, even if they throw you. Jacob was not Israel until he shrank a sinew.

Be loyal to your texts. Beware of context; if you leave it; be courteous and ask permission. Possibly the writer had bigger thoughts than your own.

Motorists and preachers should remember that the aim is not to cover the ground but to see the country and, seeing, love.

Illustrate, but don't illustrate the obvious. One good illustration is worth ten bad ones.

The well is deep, and you must have something to draw with. But there is no need to make people drink out of the bucket, still less chew on the rope.

In preaching — no demand without the gift; no diagnosis without the cure. One word about sin: ten for the Savior.

Listen before you speak. See before you say.

Aim at being independent of the concordance, but do not disdain it until you are.

Love simple speech as much as you hate shallow thinking.

Never talk down to your audience. They are not there.

Beware of the abstract noun. The abstract puffeth up; the concrete buildeth up.

By your consonants people will know what you say; by your vowels where you come from.

Be audible, but don't shout. Clearness carries farther than clamor.

Be not like the brook; pause sometimes.

One cannot always finish, but one can always stop. If the flow ceases, do not dribble.

A preacher's damnation: "He spoke of great things and made them small; of holy things and made them common; of God and made Him of no account.

> From The Bible Friend Selected by Brother Newton Jamison

# THE DOCTRINE OF THE **DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH**

## RESURRECTION

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Acts 24:15	There is coming a time in the future For the RESURRECTION of the DEAD, It will include all who are in their graves The JUST and the UNJUST, the writer said. 67	
John 5:29	There shall be a RESURRECTION of the DEAD All shall come forth from the grave,	
Matt. 25:31-33	Those that have done EVIL shall be DAMNED Those that done good, God shall save.	
	ETERNITY 68	
Heb. 9:27	When our life's work is over And our time on earth shall end,	
Rom. 2:16	Where we spend our days ETERNAL Will, upon our LORD depend.	
	69	
Acts 20:28	CHRIST came to earth to bring the plan The plan we call SALVATION HE shed HIS blood on CALVARY Sufficient to save all nations.	
	70	
Joshua 24:15	It's up to us to make a choice While in this life we live,	
Matt. 25:46	For punishment and for rewards Are CHRIST'S alone to give.	
	HELL 71	
James 4:17	When we know the WILL of GOD We better aim to do it well,	
Rom. 6:23	For the wages of sin is death	

And the payment will be made in HELL.

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HELL is a special prepared place
For the punishment of the sinner,
Mark 9:46 . . . . . There will be no end of the torment
All will be lost, there's no winner.

Brother Paul R. Myers

## THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Conversion of the Eunuch

J. H. Moore

Having seen how the three thousand were converted in a great meeting, it may be helpful to consider a case of conversion brought about by a personal effort. After Philip, the evangelist, had closed his splendid revival at Samaria, where both men and women confessed Christ, were baptized, and then received the Holy Ghost in the laying on of hands, an angel of the Lord told him to go towards the south, past Jerusalem, into the road that led to Gaza. On reaching the point designated, he came in contact with the eunuch, a government official of Ethiopia, a man of high standing. The eunuch was reading a portion of the Bible at the time, and asked Philip to sit with him in his chariot. This led to an explanation of the scriptures he was reading, and gave Philip an occasion to preach Jesus to the man. We are not told how long Philip talked, or what all he said, but enough was said to convince the eunuch that Jesus is the Christ, and that there was something for him to do. It was a fine piece of personal work upon the part of Philip.

As they proceeded, they came unto a certain water, and the eunuch asked for baptism. This showed that, in preaching Christ, Philip had said something about the initiatory rite. The eunuch was told that if he would believe with all his heart, he might be baptized. Philip believed in a heart service. The good confession was made, the eunuch saying, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." We then read that they went both down into the water, and Philip baptized the eunuch. After this both came up out of the water. (Acts 8:26-39)

In this instance of conversion we have the preaching of the Word, the hearing of the Word, the believing in Christ, the confessing of Christ as the Son of God, and baptism, — repentance, of course, being understood. The eunuch evidently realized that his sins had been pardoned, that he was born from above, had become a child of God and had received the gift of the Holy Ghost, for it is said, "And he went on his way rejoicing." (Acts 8:39)

Here are all the characteristics of a case of genuine conversion. The conditions set forth, in the instructions of Christ to his apostles, were fully complied with. There was no attempt, on the part of Philip, to evade any of the points of the commission. In fact, guided by the Spirit, nothing else could have been expected of him. A finer piece of personal work has never been done. God can trust a man like Philip; one who, in preaching the Gospel, insists on the letter, as well as on the spirit.

## GRANDMA'S TITHE PURSE

When my mother was three Grandpa Smith died and Grandma was a widow for many years. She did not remarry until after my parents were married.

I have no idea when the little, black purse became a special item in Grandma's purse but I distinctly remember one time when she was in her purse and there was this little, black, cloth coin purse. She told me that was her tithe money.

Memory fails me as to why it came up in conversation but she told me what the little purse was for and I'm glad she did.

Since that time Mother has become a Grandma and now I am a Grandma. We are constantly leaving pictures in our children and grandchildren's memory gallery?

What pictures am I leaving?

Sister Mildred Skiles R. 2 Box 8, Cuba, NM

## **OBITUARY**

## GRACE EBY

Sis. Grace A. Eby, 74, Wauseon, Ohio, died Tuesday, February 23, 1988 at Fulton County Health Center, Wauseon, where she was a patient three days, having been in failing health four months.

Born near Wauseon, May 15, 1913 she was a daughter of Amil and Emma (Schmucher) Quillet. She married Clay S. Eby, October 22, 1931. He preceded her in death August 26, 1983. A lifetime resident of the Wauseon area, she was a press operator at Wauseon Manufacturing a number of years before retiring. She was a member of West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church.

She is survived by one son, George A. Eby, Wauseon; two daughters, Mrs. George (Annabelle) Smith, Wauseon and Mrs. Merle (Marie) Smith, Turner Station, Kentucky; six grandchildren; seventeen great-grandchildren; a brother, Kenneth Quillet, Wauseon and a sister, Mrs. Helen Schaffner, Fayette, Ohio.

Services were held February 26 at West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church conducted by Charles Leatherman, Dennis St. John and Edward Johnson. Burial in the Smith Cemetery.

## NOTE

Your prayers are requested by Edward Johnson in behalf of Norman Glanz, President of Glanz Printing, who is seriously ill

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1988

May 1 - Three Angels Visit Abraham - Genesis 18:1-33.

1. Do we ever "laugh" (as Sarah) at God's plans?

2. Why was Abraham chosen as father of the faithful?

May 8 - MOTHER'S DAY - I Kings 17:1-24.

- 1. What motherly characteristic is seen in the widow? verse 15, 24.
- 2. How should we honor mother in the home? Proverbs 31:28.

May 15 - Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed - Genesis 19:(1-11) 12-29 (30-38).

1. What was the sin of Sodom? verse 5.

2. What caused Lot to consider sacrificing his daughters? verse 8.

May 22 - Abraham & Abimelech - Genesis 20:1-18.

- 1. Do sons learn from a father's example? Genesis 20:2, 26:7, 27:19.
- 2. Can our deception hurt others? verse 18.

May 29 - Isaac Born; Hagar & Ishmael - Genesis 21:1-34.

- 1. How many years passed from the promise to the fulfillment of Isaac's birth? Genesis 12:4, 21:5.
- 2. What sorrows did polygamy bring Abraham? Genesis 16:4, 21:11.

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1988

May 1 - Profanity - Exodus 20:7, Matt. 5:33-37, James 3:9-12, James 5:12.

1. Is God pleased with mild profanity?

2. What is the sin in the swearing of an oath?

May 8 - MOTHER'S DAY - I Samuel 1:9-28.

- 1. Notice the fervency and reward of a praying mother, verse 13, 27, 28.
- 2. How do we honor mother at home? Proverbs 31:28.

May 15 - Patience - Ecc. 7:8-10, Luke 21:19, Heb. 10:35-39, James 1:2-4, James 5:7-11.

1. Why is patience important?

- 2. What can increase our patience? Romans 5:3, Hebrews 12:11.
- May 22 Humility Micah 6:8, Luke 14:7-11, Rom. 12:3, James 4:8-10, I Peter 5:3-9.
  - 1. What must precede honor in our life? Proverbs 15:33.

2. Study the elements of divine favor: Proverbs 4:6.

May 29 - Reverence - Ex. 3:1-5, Ps. 4, Ps. 33:8, 18-19, Luke 1:46-54.

1. How do we show reverence for God and His name?

2. How important is "the fear of the Lord?" Proverbs 16:6, Psalms 111:10.

Paul Stump 10340 N. Diamond Mill Union, OH 45322

(USPS 054-780)

# **BIBLE MONITOR**

VOL. LXVI

MAY 1, 1988

NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# HALLELUJAH FOR THE CROSS

The cross it standeth fast, Defying every blast, The winds of hell have blown, The world its hate hath shown, Yet it is not over-thrown, Hallelujah for the cross!

It is the old cross still, Its triumph let us tell, The grace of God here shone, Through Christ the blessed Son, Who did for sin stone, Hallelujah for the cross!

'Twas here the debt was paid, Our sins on Jesus laid, So round the cross we sing, Of Christ our offering, Of Christ our living King, Hallelujah for the cross!

- Horatius Bonar

# THE FOUR POINTS OF THE CROSS

No instrument of torture and death is more important than the cross upon which Jesus was crucified. There have been many tortures devised by the cruel, inventive mind of men over the centuries and millenia. Whether devised to cause pain that would lead to capitualation or confession or to ultimately bring about death, these tortures have been used repeatedly. Perhaps the cruelest in devising tortures were the Romans. They had conquered a large territory. To retain their control they had to devise means that would intimidate these conquered peoples. The cruelest of their tortures was crucifixion.

The one crucified not only suffered from the loss of blood and the trauma of being nailed to the cross but also from the jarring when the cross was planted in the ground. He was unable to breathe properly. The internal organs were not able to function properly so the victim eventually died of suffocation. Being exposed to the elements and the gaze of the crowd only heightened the agony of the sufferer. It was a cruel and justly despised form of death.

Jesus died such a death on the cross. The cross He occupied belonged to Barabbus a notable criminal held by Pilate to be crucified. But Barabbus was let go at the insistance of the religious leaders and Jesus was condemned to fill his place. Jesus died on the cross as the perfect, sinless Lamb of God. He took not only the criminal's place on the cross but even more importantly He bore the sins of all mankind. He became God's sacrificial lamb.

Jesus had predicted His crucifixion. Several times He tried to prepare His disciples for the time of His death, resurrection and

## THE BIBLE MONITOR

MAY 1, 1988

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ascension. He had hinted of this death when He told Nicodemus that He must be lifted up. When the people sinned God had sent serpents among them to destroy them. Total destruction had been prevented only by Moses lifting up a brazen serpent which the people must look at in order to be saved. The cross and work of Jesus must be looked upon, believed and appropriated in the lives of those who would be saved from their sins.

The main vertical post with a cross piece formed the cross. The foot of the cross was made to be set in the ground. The top extended above the head. The cross piece held the extended arms and nailed hands. There were four points to the cross — the foot, the head and an extended piece to either side. These points were each important.

The foot of the cross was set in the earth. The cross was long enough that the cross would fit into a hole in the earth deep enough to support the cross upright. This connection with the ground speaks of His humanity. He came from Heaven but dwelt here in a human body that had the same physical limitations as others. He identified with men even in being tempted as men are though He did not ever yield. The foot of the cross showed His connection with men and their daily lives on the Earth.

The head of the cross pointed upward toward God. It bespoke His Heavenly origin. The Son of Man was also the Son of God. He had endeavored while on Earth to cause men to look up to God. He wanted them to change their lives by identifying with God and seeking His direction in their lives. Jesus on the cross was offered as the sacrifice that would enable men to become part of God's family.

The crosspieces held His arms in an outstretched position. This shows the universal appeal that Jesus makes. His arms are outstretched to all — whosoever will. His way is open to men of all nations, languages and tribes. None are outside the power of the cross. The way is available to all who will accept it. The walls of partition were broken down by the cross. The ends of the crosspiece could be thought of as points of the compass. The cross invites those from all directions, north and south, east and west and the points in between.

When Jesus hung on the cross, He was lifted up between Heaven and Earth. His feet could not touch the ground. His head was not in Heaven. This shows Him as the only mediator between God and man. In between He could plead with men to accept God's way. There He would die so men could be accepted by God. Jesus became the focal point for men and God as He hung on the cross.

The four points of the cross show that He knew men's problems and failures but He also knew God's cure for those problems. The

extended arms opened Spiritual life to all and called all to accept it.

The cross and the resurrection cannot be ignored. They are the greatest events in history. There God reaches down to man by giving His dearest Gift so men could be rescued from the doom, which would come with God's judgement of sinful men.

Have you looked upon that cross? Have you accepted the work

done there for you?

# ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"feelings"

The title of this article sounds a little like the title of a song. We hear about people having their "feelings" hurt. We just "feel" like something great is about to happen! Feelings are real. They are designed by God to be felt. Jesus Christ had feelings of joy, anger, grief, pity, amazement and sorrow. We learn in Hebrews 4:15 that He is "touched by the feelings of our infirmities." Jesus was, in reality, the perfect Model of how to handle feelings.

It is a positive to be sensitive to feelings. You must feel joy, happiness, peace and compassion. These are all mountaintop experiences. But it is even right to sometimes feel guilt, anger, loneliness, sorrow or fear but you must learn how to handle these negative feelings properly. They must be handled before they handle you! You must handle feelings... enjoying the positive ones

and dealing with the negative ones.

Feelings are responses to what you are doing or what you are thinking. When you do or experience or think something positive, your response is joy and peace. Negative feelings tell you to go back and straighten out the act or thought and adjust yourself correctly to that experience. You can literally use negative experiences to motivate yourself toward correcting a problem. For instance, when you are feeling guilty, you admit and confess your guilt and then straighten out what you did wrong. This will involve communicating with God as well as another person if someone else was involved. If you feel grief, realize that it is pointing you toward filling your loss with new relationships. If you are lonely, admit that feeling and take action to fill your day with relationships. Listen to the bad feelings that they might be turned into positives. They often tell you when something is wrong.

Feelings can be false. An example of false feelings is deciding it is all right to have physical relations before marriage when you feel good about it. The feelings say, "do it." God's word says, "Flee from sexual immorality." God's Word always strips the bluff away from false feelings. It opens up feelings to show their true context.

Sometimes feelings can make you sick. You see, feelings were made to be expressed and if you don't express them in a positive way, they will sneak in to be expressed in other ways. Sometimes they can cause a lump in the throat, a twitching eyelid, nausea or eventually will lead to ulcers or emotional traumas.

Men are taught to repress their feelings and there is probably a direct correlation to that teaching and the amount of ulcers men experience. Society likes to classify us as machines so it asks us to forget feelings. It tells us that they just make us vulnerable. Christians sometimes follow this way of thinking. We begin to think that we shouldn't feel tension or some of the fears that we might experience. We pretend to be "super-Christian." But we DO experience feelings and to hypocritically act as if we don't-only brings on additional problems in our lives. Keeping feelings hidden away inside is not the way to handle them. They need to be correctly expressed. Am I suggesting that you just dump your feelings on anyone that is nearby? Of course not. If you do that... if you uncontrollably express your feelings to anyone at hand, you will soon be left to yourself. This is certainly not the way to make friends. If you moan and complain because of some difficult feelings you will eventually be avoided by others. There must be a balance between the two extremes. This is called SPIRIT CON-TROLLED EXPRESSION. You find this balance with acknowledging, examining and finally acting on the feelings through God's leading.

Examine your feelings in the light of what God has to say in His Word. If your feelings reflect positive behavior according to His teachings, then they are there to reinforce your behavior. If your behavior is negative according to the Word of God, the resulting feelings will point to problems. They are telling you that you need to make some adjustments and corrections.

Action is the ultimate end of feeling. Once you have endured a feeling or have enjoyed it, either reinforce the positive behavior or correct the negative behavior. Could it be that you will also need to readjust your ego? Sometimes we get feelings of envy and they become a barrier between ourselves and another individual. This actually requires a shift in values and making an inward mental and spiritual change.

Remember these basic principles because they will help you to identify feelings and deal with them appropriately, God's way.

1. A feeling may well be a God-given response. 2. Feelings sometimes point out positive acts and thoughts for reinforcement and even negative acts and thoughts for correction. 3. Holding feelings inside can damage you and "letting it all hang out" damages relationships with others. Feel free to feel feelings but

learn how to express them God's way.

As God's person, you should desire to have right feelings. That is a part of our growing process. Your feelings will lead you to right actions and right actions will create an environment of additional growth in yourselves and in others. When feelings are correct... discernment and sensitivity will be right in line with them. Ultimately, feelings will determine your pattern of treatment of others as well as understanding of yourself and your relationship with God.

Brother Len Wertz

## TO MY SONS

I stood at the kitchen window this morning and watched as you two walked toward the barn with Daddy, one on either side. A tear slowly made its way to the corner of my eye and then coursed a trail down my cheek. You are our boys, our sons, and how you delight in being with Daddy. You want to follow him everywhere he goes. You run a little now as you hurry to catch up to him and you reach up for his hand and then look up into his face and I see you are talking. I wonder what you are saying.

I remember when the Doctor looked up and said "It's a boy!" The nurse took a picture at that moment so we'll always have the cherished picture of your Daddy's face just shining with happiness. A son. A boy who will grow up into a man. And you're ours to love and train. No, you're not really ours. You're the Lord's and He has

allowed us the privilege of training you and loving you.

What a Godly heritage you have, Sons. No doubt you have ancestors back over the centuries who have gone through great suffering for their faith. You have great grandparents and grandparents who have fervently prayed for first us, as your parents when we were born into this world, and now for you. You have a great grandpa who lived on this very farm that you're now having the privilege of being raised on. You have a grandpa who instructed his children in the ways of the Lord here in this very house. They gave of themselves that they might be able to pass on that Godly heritage. Don't let the chain get broken with you, boys. Make yourselves available so that you're another link in this chain of passing on a godly heritage.

Your little feet are running now, trying to keep up with Daddy. Will they always run trying to follow Christ? Will they take you to Calvary and see the Lord hanging on the cross bleeding for you? Will they lead you into the baptismal waters? Will they take you to church each time the church doors are open? Will they know how

to FLEE when the evil one comes and tempts you?

Those little hands are so busy, always into something. You love to construct things out of all sorts of items. The little minds and hands that now can take pieces of refuse and worthless items, will they ever so diligently help build worthwhile things? Will they be used to give encouragement to people, to pat someone on the back who needs the touch of another human? Will they help build up God's church? Will they lead other people to Him?

Will the little heart that beats inside your chest always be light and free as it is now? Boys, how I pray that you will always be able to lay your head on your pillow at night with the blessed feeling of having a clear conscience, knowing that all is well between your God and you. Knowing that your heart is clean and pure. Knowing that any sin you've committed has been confessed and your slate is clean. Knowing that you have done your part to keep peace amongst all others you come in contact with, especially those of the body of Christ. Oh, the priceless value of a clean conscience!

You delight now in earning pennies, nickles, dimes, whatever small amounts you might get. I pray that as you grow up and get larger and larger amounts of money to work with that you will practice good stewardship. You must learn that the money is not really yours but the Lord's and He is entrusting it into your care to use in the best way to His honor and glory. I pray that before you make purchases of any great amounts that you will seek the Lord's direction, be it for a car, a house, or even much smaller things.

I pray that as you grow older you would learn to apply I Thess. 4:11 to your life; "Study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands..." How much more respectable is the quiet person who opens their mouth with wisdom than the one who talks all the time and thinks later. Learn to keep your own life straight and not be into other people's business. It's always so much easier to see the faults in other people's lives.

I long for you to have a Godly understanding on the marks of a true man as you reach manhood. May you learn to know what it means to stand alone, what it is to be firmly rooted in the Word and in your committment to God that no one can make you waver, even if they're your best friends. I pray you'll always realize a real man is one who takes God's Word seriously, who delights in plunging into the depths of the riches there, who has a conviction to spend time alone with God each day.

How I pray you'll always possess the qualities of kindness and gentleness. How I cringe to see young boys thinking it's "neat" to the tought and mean to others. May you always see people as God sees them — people who were loved so much that He thought they were worth His Son dying for. May you always be one of the healers instead of one of the destroyers.

I pray you'd always be able to experience much more of a thrill in a Bible study and prayer with other people who are ALIVE in Christ than you would in driving a car at dangerous speeds. May you learn that the true joy and happiness in life comes from the spiritual things from God rather than the carnal things of men.

When you reach manhood and start looking for companions I hope you look for inner beauty rather than outer. I hope you seek a girl who is chaste, virtuous, honorable, and sincere. That, by no means, means she will be dull and lackluster. A Godly partner will bring you more joy than you can imagine. I hope that you will purpose in your heart as a young man to esteem any girl you ever would date with enough respect that you would never want to take away her beautiful purity and chastity. A mark of a good man is one who holds up high standards in courtship so that the marriage relationship can be sweeter and without scars when you do finally marry. It would be so worth it, boys, to keep dating standards high! I hope that if you ever establish a home you will be committed to making your home a place where God lives and reigns. I pray you'll give of yourselves and be committed to doing what you can to please your spouses, not seeking your own happiness but seeking to please your partners. It's when each partner gives the most that you receive the most.

Oh, I know it seems you're so far away from dating and marriage now but how can I help but let my mind go down those tracks? It seems like only a few years ago that I was your age and how quickly the years have flown by! I pray that the Lord will give us wisdom to properly train you in your young years that when you reach the teenage years and have many decisions to make that you will be so firmly rooted and grounded in the Word that you can make wise choices. Timothy says "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, ins charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." If you can live up to that verse, boys, I will be able to claim this verse: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." III John 4. You children are the only possessions we can take with us to Heaven and we so earnestly pray we will be there as a complete family.

You'll make mistakes and experience failure. Sometimes growing up is painful. Sometimes it seems you need to learn the hard way. But I want you to know that when you do fail we will always love you and be there to help you back on your feet. And more importantly, God is always there and He'll always want you to get back up and be going about His work. May you do that, sons. May you be His vessel to help get His work done in this world.

I'm praying for you, Your Mother Sister Sally Meyers

## 1988 GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 4-8, 1988

### PREACHING PROGRAM

TIME	SPEAKER	SUBJECT	
Sat. P.M.	Dennis St. John	The Church-Reaching, Pressing and Attaining	Phil. 3:9-16
Sat. P.M.	Rudy Shaffer		
Sat. Eve.	Paul Hartz	Christian Humility	I Peter 5:5-6
Sun. A.M.	Sunday School for Children	The Day The Net Broke	Luke 5:1-11
Sun. A.M. Sun. A.M.		Redeeming The Time Unlimited Forgiveness	Eph. 5:16 Matt. 18:21-22
Sun. P.M.	William Carpenter	If Thou Doest Well? — And If Not Well	Gen. 4:7
Sun. P.M.	Emmert Shelly	Abiding	John 15:1-11
Sun. Eve.	Robert Carpenter		
Sun. Eve.	Fred Pifer	To The Young People: Hold Fast Thine Integrity!	Job 2:3
Mon. A.M.	Bible Study, Adults:	Throughly Furnished for Perilous Times	II Tim. 3:1-17
	Children:	God Cares for His Servant	I Kings 17:1-24
Mon. A.M.	Jan Heisey	The Most Important Question	Matt. 22:42
Mon. P.M.	Wilbur Uplinger	Characteristics of the Millennial Reign	Rev. 20:1-9
Mon. P.M.	Michael Wray	Final Exhortations	II Tim. 4:1-8
Mon. Eve.	Warren Smith	What Is Man?	Heb. 2:1-18
Mon. Eve.	James Kegerreis	Spiritual Warfare	Eph. 6:12
Tue. A.M.	Bible Study: Adults: Children:	Contending for the Faith The Lord Cometh; He is God	Jude 1-25 I Kings 18:17-40
Tue. A.M.	Kenneth Wilkerson	Don't Fail the Test	Heb. 12:3
Tue. P.M.	Decorum Committee	Missionary Program Bro. Dean Shaffer, Speak	er
Tue. Eve.	Jacob Ness	Valley of Decision	Joel 3:14

## 1988 GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 4-8, 1988

Directions to Roxbury Holiness Camp Grounds, located  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of Roxbury, Pennsylvania on Route 997.

Those traveling on Pennsylvania turnpike (no. 76) exit number 15, take 997 south to camp grounds.

Those traveling Interstate 81 North or South exit on Scotland

Exit, take 997 north to camp grounds.

Those traveling on train or plane go to Harrisburg. Take Greyhound bus service to Shippensburg, Pennsylvania and call camp grounds for transportation.

There is plenty of room for campers and trailers.

Please bring sheets and pillow cases.

When making reservations please state: Date of arrival, approximate time of arrival, number in party, approximate time of departure.

Camp grounds telephone number is (717) 532-2208. If no answer call (717) 532-4453.

Please send reservations to: Bro. Verling H. Wolfe RD #1 Box 1482 Bethel, PA 19507

# THE DOCTRINE OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

#### **HEAVEN**

73

If we live as the LORD would have us
The VICTORY we will have won,
WE will spend ETERNITY in HEAVEN
Provided through the DEATH of HIS SON.

74

When GOD gives us ETERNAL LIFE
We then shall never die,
Neither can any one rob us of
Our HEAVENLY HOME on high.

75

John 14:2-3 ..... HEAVEN is a place CHRIST'S gone to prepare
Its streets are paved with pure gold,
The GATES of HEAVEN are made of PEARLS
The SAINTS there will never grow old.

76

Rev. 22:14 ..... Blessed are they that do HIS COMMANDMENTS
They have a right to the tree of life,
They will enter through the gates to the CITY
And in HEAVEN will enjoy ETERNAL LIFE.

77

So wonderful is the ETERNAL CITY
The eye hath not seen, nor ear heard,

I Cor. 2:9	 Neither hath it entered into the heart of man
	What all is promised in GOD'S WORD.

78

I John 2:25	So TRUST GOD for all HIS promises
Rom. 6:16	Faithfully obey HIS WORD,
Phil. 3:14	Keeping pressing forward to the mark
John 14:3	To forever be with the LORD.

- Brother Paul R. Myers

## SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 1, 1928
"IT IS I"
J. H. Crofford

The subject of this article is the language of Jesus as recorded in 20th verse of the 6th chapter of St. John. The occasion was: The disciples of Christ had been with Jesus enjoying his associations and sharing his blessings, when they assembled on a mountain with five thousand anxious persons, to see and learn of Jesus. The time had come when they hungered for food to sustain physical life, but the disciples lacked the wherewithal to purchase the quantity necessary for the multitude. Jesus knew what he would do, and after they were seated on the grass, he fed them to their satisfaction from five barley loaves and two fishes.

After this great miracle, the disciples, leaving Jesus, went to the sea and embarked on its waters. The winds began to blow after they had rowed out for some distance, and the waters became turbulent, and fear filled their hearts, when looking out over the water they saw a man walking on the water who said: "It is I; be not afraid." Their fears subsided and their hearts were comforted because Jesus was with them.

In childhood and youth, when in our innocent and unaccountable state, we are associating with Jesus who supplies our needs, cares for us, and protects us, and we are unconscious of danger. After feeding on his love till we arrive at the age of accountability, we leave him to row our boat over the sea of life with our associates. Everything moves along smoothly until we encounter the winds of opposition, and the sinfulness of this world rises in billows on life's sea, and fear fills our hearts. We yield to temptation; we sob, conscience smitten, on our pillows as we lie down on our bed of rest, feeling we have done something dreadfully wrong; destruction looms up before us and we see no hope for

escape; then we look out over the turbulent waters and we see, by faith, the approaching form of him who said: "It is I; be not afraid." Receiving him in our little bark, our fears subside and we make our voyage, "Leaning on the everlasting arms."

"What have I to dread, what have I to fear, I have blessed peace with my Lord so near; Leaning on the everlasting arms."

## THOSE PECULIAR PEOPLE

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation. A PECULIAR PEOPLE; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:" I Peter 2:9.

One day, while visiting the public library I overheard a conversation between two ladies. They were looking at the newspaper, which had in it a picture of some Amish people. One lady said to the other, "Those people are PECULIAR!" I was reminded of I Peter 2:9. Today the word "peculiar" has far different connotations than it did when the King James Bible was translated. Today someone who is "peculiar" is "odd" or "strange" or departed from what society considers normal. In the King James version, it is more accurate to say that "peculiar" means "set apart, separate, or sanctified (set apart for a holy purpose)."

As Christians anxious to give a good testimony to the world, we must be sure that the things that make us peculiar to the world are also the things that testify to the glory and goodness of the Lord. Many things that make certain groups unique (and "quaint" to the world) have little to do with Jesus Christ or our relationship with Him. Many do not realize it, but it is not enough just to live a certain way before people, because most people do not understand that what they are doing amounts to a Christian testimony. In I Peter 3:15 we are encouraged to always be ready to testify to every man that asks a reason for the hope within us. In II Timothy 1:8 we are admonished not to be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord. It is therefore important to TELL others about Jesus, so that our peculiarity will be as set-apart people sanctified unto good works, and not just something that the world will look at as an oddity.

It is true that there is a reason why we dress and live plainly. We should not live with the same excess of riot as the world does. We should live as unto the Lord, (Peculiarly - or set apart) and our lives should be lived so as to always be able to testify to God's goodness to the world. There should be no questions to our neighbors but that we are Christians. They should know about Jesus without us being obnoxious. How is our testimony for Jesus? Are we

considered by those around us to be living for the Lord Jesus Christ, or are we just peculiar?

Lynn H. Miller RD #2 Box 561 Newmanstown, PA 17073

## A MOTHER'S PLACE

A mother's place is in the home, Not to work away, be idle or roam. To guide each child with loving care, And to help make the world more fair. To stand by her husband through thick or thin To help her family stay away from sin.

Be kind to all, cherish each friend, Be a true Christian to the end. Give and do for others each day, Forgetting yourself, as God you obey.

- Sister Verda Lorenz

## THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Conversion of Saul J. H. Moore

We now pass to the conversion of a man, who, when looking over his past life, regarded himself as having at one time been the chief of sinners. (I Tim. 1:15) Saul, as Paul was called before his conversion, was a well-educated Jew, and stood high among his own people. When the persecution arose, he took an active part in persecuting the Christians in about Jerusalem. He even went so far as to ask for letters of authority, that he might proceed to Damascus, to arrest and persecute those who believed on Christ.

We are told that, as the journeyed and came near to Damascus, a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, was flashed upon him, and that he fell to the earth, and heard a voice, saying: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Then it was that he realized that he was in the grasp of some divine force, and asked "Who art thou, Lord?" Being told that it was Jesus, whom he was persecuting, he then, trembling and astonished, asked. "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" In response to this inquiry, the Lord told him to go into the city and it should there be told him what he must do. When he arose, he found himself blind and was led into the city. (Acts 9:1-8).

In the house of Judas he remained without sight for three days, eating and drinking nothing. If ever a man experienced heart

repentance and soul remorse, Saul did. The moment that Jesus spoke to him on the way, faith began its work in his soul, and led up to the godly sorrow that resulted in his thorough repentance. By special direction of the Lord, Ananias, a devout minister, went to Saul, telling him that he had come that he might receive his sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. (Acts 9:17) Then Ananias said to him: "And now, why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16) Having received his sight, it is said that he "arose and was baptized." (Acts 9:18)

In the narrative of this remarkable conversion we have clearly mentioned all the points embodied in the last and great commission of Jesus, that is, hearing the Word, faith, repentance, baptism, the forgiveness of sins, and being filled with the Holy Ghost. Ananias seems to have been as well informed regarding the conditions of pardon, as given by Jesus, as were the apostles themselves, and so performed his part, in the conversion of Saul, in exact accord with what was done on the Day of Pentecost. Placing both instances side by side, we have teaching, hearing, faith, repentance, baptism, remission of sins and receiving of the Holy Ghost. The same divine influence that directed the work at Pentecost, directed each movement in the conversion of Saul.

When Saul was told to arise and be baptized, and wash away his sins, it was of course understood that his sins would be washed away in the cleansing blood of Christ. While baptism, wherever Christianity was known, was recognized as one of the divinely-appointed conditions of pardon, it was understood that it was the atoning blood and not the water, that constituted the cleansing medium. It was in the act of baptism that Saul came in contact, in a symbolical sense, with the power that cancels sins.

Saul did not have to go far for baptism. The river Abana runs through the center of Damascus, and a finer stream, in which to administer the rite of baptism, can hardly be found in the world. Accompanied by others, Saul may have been taken to the river and there buried with Christ in baptism. In Rom. 6:3-5 he tells just how it was done: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" The "us" in this instance includes Paul, as he was called after his conversion. This implies that he got into Christ by being baptized into him. But we read further: "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism." The Revised Version says: "We were buried." So Paul would have us understand that when he was buried by baptism. The only way to bury a man by baptism is to immerse him. This is positive proof from Paul's own pen that he was immersed. And we may therefore state with perfect confidence that when taken into the water Paul

kneeled down, and was immersed "into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." He arose from the watery grave, having put off the old man, and put on the new man, realizing that his sins had been washed away in the blood of the Lamb, that he received the gift of the Holy Ghost, and that he was in the hands of God a chosen vessel to bear Gospel to the Gentile nations.

### **NEWS ITEMS**

### WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to their Love-feast, the Lord willing, to be held May 21 and 22, with services starting at 11 A.M. on Saturday. All are welcome to come and share this weekend of fellowship.

Sisteer Dianne Heisey, Cor.

### DAYTON, VIRGINIA

The Lord willing, the Dayton Congregation plans to hold Love-feast services, Saturday, May 21, beginning at 4 p.m. We invite all who can to come and worship with us.

Sister Mary Rounds, Cor.

#### DIRECTORIES

There are a few church directories left. They are \$3.00 post paid. I would appreciate it if you would let me know of any changes in the information for your directory listing, so I can keep a current directory update.

Sister Jolene Andrews

312 E. Coleman Rd. Raymore, MO 64083

## CARD OF THANKS

Greetings in Jesus name to all the Brethren, Sisters and kind friends who sent me cards, flowers and food while I was in the hospital and since I'm home. I want to say "Thank You" to each one and may God bless you for your love, prayers and concern. It means much to me.

May we all remain true and faithful to our Heavenly Father and to one another in these last and trying days.

In Christian love, Sister Della Ebling.

### IN APPRECIATION

Thank you for all the lovely cards from Brothers and Sisters and friends. It made my day alot brighter. May the Lord bless you. Remember us in your prayers. It helps!

Sister Violet Replogle

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

VOL. LXVI

MAY 15, 1988

NO. 10

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# THE WEAVER

by Grant Colfax Tullar

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me,
I cannot choose the colors
He worketh steadily.

Oftimes He weaveth sorrow, And I in foolish pride Forget He sees the upper And I the underside.

Not till the loom is silent And the shuttles cease to fly Shall God unroll the canvas And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful In the Weaver's skillful hand As the threads of gold and silver In the pattern He has planned.

Selected by Sister Almeda Strayer

#### **HOBBIES**

Men, women and children spend much time and alot of money on their hobbies. The forty hour work week has freed people from the rigors of past work schedules therefore they have found many activities to occupy their time.

During their leisure time, people collect objects of all sorts from antiques to gadgets, from paper items to huge industrial or agricultural engines. Others pursue various sports activities either as participants or spectators. These pursuits not only involve the giving of much time but often they involve a great expense.

These hobbies are pursued even as the complaint is made that there is too little time to write letters or visit friends. The time spent on hobbies can be relaxing or in other ways refreshing but often the time could be better used in helping others. It is sad to see Christians who are more interested in their hobbies than in their Christian service. Time spent in pursuing personal pleasure could more profitably be spent in bringing some Spiritual pleasure into the lives of others. The money spent on hobbies even by Christians could be used to further the programs of the Church or to help the needy.

There are many complaints about the governmental welfare system but if Christians were to invest their hobby money in providing help through the Church to the needy there would be far less need for a governmentally directed welfare system. Where the Church has failed to live up to her duty in this world, the cause may be traced to individual Christians who have decided to invest their resources in their personal pleasure rather than in doing good.

## THE BIBLE MONITOR

MAY 15, 1988

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Many hobbies run counter to Christian teaching. A spirit of acquisition and covetousness may arise. Many sports have become violent and lead to ill will among those who participate. The striving to be first can lead to seeking unfair advantage or shortcuts. Being the best in a certain field can lead to pride. Too often people take personal credit for hard work and training but forget the strength and ability given by God.

Hobbies become so interesting that they take highest priority in people's lives. Their hobbies determine their social contacts, their time schedules and become the main focus of their thoughts and conversations. Lives that should be dedicated to witnessing, Bible study and prayer are instead dedicated to pursuing a hobby.

One of the dangers of hobbies is that Christianity itself will become just another hobby. A hobby is an activity that is not necessary nor productive. Christianity becomes a hobby when it becomes but a portion of the person's life. When Christianity can be practiced at a few convenient times but left alone at all other times it has become a hobby. Christianity that does not influence daily decisions nor give form to dress and activities has become a hobby. It is not a serious pursuit that demands time and effort. When a few hours of Church attendance becomes the sole participation in Christian living then it has become a hobby not a dynamic activity.

Christians live in a world dedicated to hobbies. Being surrounded and involved with hobbies, it is easy for the Christian to become interested in his hobbies. When hobby meetings are held, they are more enthusiastic and emotional than the usual worship service. The color and activity that surrounds these meetings can cause a disenchantment with the quieter and reverent activities of the Church. It is more important that the activities of the Church be directed by the Holy Spirit rather than by the overly-enthusiastic style of meeting.

Christians dare not allow their Christianity to become a hobby. It should not be consigned to a certain time and place and be put away at other times. Christianity must control the Christian so he will be willing to give his best efforts to serving God. The Church must be a group of people who are not pursuing a hobby, but who worship God, study the Bible, pray and enjoy fellowship. The teachings in the Bible must rule all the activities of the Christian not just a little section of time set aside to pursue the hobby of religion.

Is Christianity real to you or is it but your hobby? With an eternal soul to save it should be the most important thing in your life. Christianity dare not be your hobby.

## ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Depression"

Depression is one of the major medical problems of this age. Probably about everyone is depressed at one time or another. Almost two million people in this country are currently undergoing treatment for the severe form of this problem and many more are challenged to work through the symptoms themselves. It affects both young and old and is sometimes expressed as "just a bad feeling" or "nothing going right." In reality, it is probably not a feeling but a lack of feeling. A real feeling is an emotion, a response to something or someone. Loneliness is a feeling but depression is: 1. an inability to concentrate, 2. constant indecision, 3. not being able to enjoy anything, 4. feeling tired and lacking in energy most or all of the time, 5. constantly irritable, 6. unable to sleep routinely. Depression becomes a serious, prolonged condition for some people.

Depression is caused by stress, unrealistic goals, unsolved problems and difficult medical situations or drug reactions.

Stress is usually great pressure that squeezes you into a major change or crisis. Unsolved problems might include family upsets or anatomical irregularities. Unrealistic goals shows setting our sights higher than the situation allows. Medical situations include asthma, heart problems or other situations that alter the lifestyle and limit activity.

Depression frequently tackles you when you refuse to acknowledge or handle some painful feelings. Thus... you decide not to feel! Of course there are technical medical issues involved here but looking at the subject simply, these reasons are frequently given for this problem.

This is something that must be dealt with and can be handled better by Christians than any other group of people. Regardless of how bad things are... or seem... you can have victory over this curse of the 80's. 1. Your first victory comes when you allow yourself to accept yourself to feel confident in your salvation. God's presence in you and the assurance of that presence can give you inner peace and confidence that can be experienced by no one out in the world.

2. Your second victory will come when you become free to share your problem with a fellow Christian. That is what "admonishing one another" is... coming alongside to comfort and look at the problem from another perspective. Some people have been depressed or "down" for so long that they don't even realize that it is affecting their personality and ability to communicate.

3. You need to feel a freedom to express your feelings. If you

express your feelings on a routine basis, you will not get all bound up by them. We Christians get far too independent and want to hide behind that independent nature. After all, if we are Christian, we will experience no problems, right? That is Satan's lie and the lie is carried right into modern Christiandom today. Did Paul have his infirmity of the flesh removed? Of course not. He just learned to work effectively around it and he had one of the most efficacious ministries of all time.

Prayer is a fantastic tool for expressing how you feel about a particular problem or situation. Talk to God. I hear people say, "Well, I just don't have anyone to talk to." Whoa! If you are the Lord's you always have Someone to talk to. And, if you want to talk out loud... that is all right too! When David was experiencing the problem with depression (yes, the Psalmist David) he expressed what he felt to the Lord in prayer. In Psalms 13, we find him saying "there is no soundness in my flesh," "neither rest in my bones... I am troubled... feeble... my strength fails me... my friends stand aloof." In Psalms 42 we read, "O my God, my God, my soul is cast down within me." There was no self pity party there... just an awareness of his problem and an understanding that God cared and he could find solice and healing in Him.

Talking, phoning someone or writing a brother or sister in Christ is the next best expression to visiting with God. We are a family... we must care and share more and lift people up to the Throne in Heaven.

Step four is to deal with the cause. You must deal with the original cause of the problem. If it was stress, problems, unrealistic goals or whatever, you need to move into action and change that situation. Some times it is going to require changing yourself. You might need to prayerfully work on new attitudes toward others and situations and change negatives to positives. Have you ever asked God to do that for you?

As we look at the Apostle Paul we know that he had a physical problem which he couldn't change. He learned, through prayer, that God's grace was sufficient for him and that God's power was made perfect in his weakness. God gave him the desire and ability to accept that unchangeable problem. Work to develop inner qualities such as faith and friendliness.

There is victory. There is joy and direction and inner peace. You must get out of your own pathetic flesh power and into Spirit control. You must obey and study God's Love letter and witness to what He has done in your life. Start dwelling on the positives and allow them to become habits of your lifestyle. Supernatural things will happen. You will become more fulfilled and complete. You will enjoy incredible treasures of becoming more and more what you were meant to be. Your life will be deep and meaningful.

Brother Len Wertz

## THE GREAT SIN OF OUR TIME

I am greatly grieved at the great immorality of our day. While there are many angles to my subject, I wish to confine my remarks mainly to the subject of abortion.

I have read where various churches endorse abortion for any reason. Others endorse it if the life of the mother is at stake or if it is a case of rape or incest.

In my studies of the Bible can I find nowhere that God endorses abortion. I read in Genesis 9:1, "And God blessed Noah and his sons and said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth." This was after the flood when all humanity but eight souls were destroyed. It was God's intent when he said "replenish," to bring forth children to inhabit the earth. This command was obeyed for many centuries and the earth was repopulated. Children were wanted and loved. It is much different among many people today.

The people of the world have gotten far away from the true teaching of God's Word. They are turning God's way of being fruitful and multiplying into the sinful pleasures of the lust of the flesh.

Many unwanted babies are conceived through the sinful act of adultery or fornication. Their coming together has two positive results. First, they have committed a sin that will bar them from Heaven. I Cor. 6:9-10, "...fornicators,... nor adulterers,... shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Because they are unwanted, they are aborted before they are born. It matters not when they are aborted, their life is being taken. From the time of conception the embryo is growing, which indicates life. To abort is to kill. In Exodus 20:13, Deuteronomy 5:17 and Romans 13:9 we have the identical words, "THOU SHALT NOT KILL." In I John 3:15, "... ye know that no murderer hath eternal life..."

In Ecclesiastes 3:2 we read, "... a time to be born, and a time to die;..." God determines these times.

Over our land there are many doctors, quacks and abortion mills that destroy many lives daily. What will they face on the day of Judgment? Matthew 7:23 contains the answer. "... I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

I have read many articles in magazines and newspapers, that, often after a woman or girl has an abortion, they rue the thought of it, and deeply regret it. It is too late then. A life has been taken, murder was performed. That is a small price they will pay compared to what they will pay in the final day of judgment.

James 3:11 teaches us that we are not to commit adultery and not

to kill. What about those that are guilty of both?

Compare the feeling of a mother who conceived legitimately and bore and loved her newborn, with a female who illegitimately conceived and aborted the fetus.

John 16:21, "A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world."

One loves her newborn. She cherishes it. It's a part of her. In no way would she want to give it up. Solomon made that statement clear in the method he used to determine which woman was the mother of the living baby. (Read I Kings 4:16-28.) The real mother loved her child to the extent that she would rather give it up to the other woman than to have it cut in two. The other woman, with the dead child said, "Let neither woman have it, CUT IT IN TWO."

The mother who was willing to give up her child, rather than have it slain, compares to the mother who runs full term and gives birth to her child, tenderly and lovingly caring for it as God intended.

The mother who contended that neither should have it, compares to the woman who prefers to have an abortion, rather than giving birth. They miss the joy referred to in John 16:21, and besides, they will have to appear before the GREAT JUDGE and give an account of their wicked deed.

Because masses of people approve and practice abortion does not cancel God's teachings about the subject.

Abortion has become a very prevalent practice, and is sin.

We read in I Timothy 5:22, "... keep thyself pure." We must strive to live according to God's Word and not follow the ways of the world.

Brother Paul R. Myers 5005 Higbee Ave., NW Canton, Ohio 44718

# SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 15, 1928 CROSS BEARING

Beulah Haldeman

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." Mark 8:34.

If we do the will of God, and take up the cross and follow Christ, we know that he is with us, for he is our God and he will strengthen us, yea, he will help us. We know all power is given unto Jesus in heaven and in earth. He has power to save and power to give

eternal life to as many as will take up his cross. Verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. We must surrender our will absolutely to God and obey him in all things if we expect our cross to be light. If we surrender all to him, the Holy Spirit will lead us. We should be willing to take the Bible as it is and not try to change it or get around plain commands to meet the demands of the modern time.

What a wonderful love God has showed for us. Christ was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we were healed. Isa, 53:5.

Being in an agony, he prayed more earnestly. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law. Surely since Christ has suffered so much for us, gave so much love to us, we can certainly do something for his sake. What is our cross compared to what Christ suffered for us? Our cross can also be made light if we will only say, "I therefore yield to him the control of all I am and all I have; my thoughts, my words, my actions; Lord Jesus, thou art my Lord; I belong to thee; I surrender all to thee."

Many people say, "I cannot give up my evil ways to take up my cross. We must, or perish. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom. 6:23.

God is not mocked. For whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. But if we sow to the spirit we shall of the spirit reap life everlasting. We in the strength of Jesus Christ can give up our evil ways. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Phil. 4:13.

Christ with all power in heaven and in earth is the deliverer from the power of sin. Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth," wherefore he is able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:25. We can gain victory over sin by this. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. Rom. 6:12-14.

Possibly we have tried or at least thought we did to take up our cross and failed, but did we surrender entirely to God? Did we study the word of God daily? Did we look each day to God alone, and not to self for strength and victory. He giveth power to the faint and giveth grace to the humble, but he resisteth the proud. Did we pray constantly?

Pray without ceasing. I Thess. 5:17. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. I Peter 4:16.

If we put into practice all of these thoughts with faith in our Lord Jesus Christ we are not apt to fail in our Christian life.

Some people say the Christian life is too hard. It takes too much of self denial of things in this world to take up his cross and follow Christ. "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt. 11:30. Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace. Prov. 3:17.

For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous. I John 5:3.

There is no peace saith my God to the wicked. Isa. 57:21.

We know those who have not taken up the cross, there is no peace with them. They are wanting and seeking to the best of their ability for the joys and pleasures which lead into the sin of this old wicked world. They are not satisfied, they are always seeking for more pleasure; anything that has a thrill to it, as they classify it. But if they could only see it, the Christian life is much easier because that peace and content that is really pleasure is that which lasts.

Some say there is too much to give up in their Christian career. For what doth it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Mark 8:36. He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Rom. 8:32. When Christ gave his only son for us, we can surely give up our worldly desires for Christ's sake. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any many love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world is the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life is not of the Father but of the world. The world passes away, but he that does the will of God abides forever. The things that are gain for us are counted as loss for Christ. We should count all things but dross for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them as nothing, that I may win Christ. If we could all get in our minds that the loss of all things count as nothing, if we can only win Christ by giving up the desires of this world.

Often we hear it said, "I cannot be a Christian or take up my cross because of my business — I will lose my position." But I wonder what is more respected by everyone than a true Christian? Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Matt. 6:33.

God is first and all of these other things are secondary in God's sight and should be considered so by everyone. Jesus says, "There is no one who has left house, brother, sister, father, mother,

wife, children or land for his sake and the gospel's sake, but shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, with persecutions, and eternal life in the world to come. What a wonderful promise Christ has given us. No matter what persecutions come, they cannot be more severe than our Christ suffered.

We have heard it said, "I will lose my friends if I become a Christian." The word says, "Ye adulters and adulteresses, know ye not that the friends of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend to the world is an enemy of God. Jas. 4:4. We cannot be a friend of the world and of God because we cannot serve both God and mammon. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." If we are ashamed of the gospel, our cross will be hard to bear; but if we are not ashamed of it, we will willingly take up our cross.

Most Christians are fearful of ridicule. Was not our Savior ridiculed? Certainly he was. Are we any better than he? "The fear of man bringeth a snare; but whosoever putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe. Prov. 29:25. Whosoever is ashamed of God and his words in this sinful generation: He also says, "He shall be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad; for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets, which were before you." Matt. 5:11-12.

Do we not owe something to the prophets, and even our parents before us, who suffered greater persecutions than we have to endure? We do not only owe it to our foreparents, but to Christ. Yea, and all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions. II Tim. 3:12. If we suffer we shall reign with him. If we deny him he will also deny us. II Tim. 2:12.

The suffering and persecutions of the present day cannot be compared to the glory that shall be given if we only carry the cross.

I am sure if we only follow all the commandments Christ has given us, our cross will be easy to bear and we will not fail but will succeed and gain a reward of everlasting life.

## A TIME OF CRISIS

I Thessalonians 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

I Timothy 6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

Il Timothy 3:14 "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them."

The challenge has been made, the gauntlet has been thrown down. The time is long past when those of the Brethren faith can ignore the daily attacks on the very core of our faith. Perhaps many will say it is too late to accept the challenge. However, the question must be answered, has our historical Brethren faith been based on Holy Scriptures or the mere intellect of man? If the latter be true we are no better than the cults. It is then time to encourage individuals to leave the Brethren faith. But we are completely convinced, from several years of study of Scripture, that our Brethren faith is, indeed, founded upon Holy Scripture.

Perhaps nothing is more basic to the Brethren understanding of scripture than what is termed today "Lordship salvation." In simple terms this means that an individual must recognize that Jesus Christ has complete rule over their life and obedience to the teachings of Holy Scripture is an important part of their salvation experience. This is being challenged by several prominent Fundamentalist preachers as well as by some lesser known individuals in other church circles. As Paul admonishes us in our opening verse, we must prove all things. Therefore let us see what the scriptures have to say about "Lordship salvation." In Acts 16 we have an account of Paul and Silas in prison. While they were praying and singing there was a great earthquake that opened the prison doors and loosed their bonds. The keeper of the prison was going to commit suicide but Paul and Silas assured him that they were all still there. Through this experience the jailer asked the question, "What must I do to be saved?" The answer was as follows. "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." In Acts 5 Peter and the other apostles informed the high priests and the council that Jesus, who they had crucified, was the true Savior. In verse 32 these words were spoken, "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." We could quote many more verses to prove our point. In fact the major portion of the New Testament is the teaching that Jesus Christ is Lord of our lives if we are Christians. It also is filled with warnings to follow the teaching of Holy Scripture. Of course those who challenge "Lordship salvation" cannot deny that these verses exist and they acknowledge the fact that we should allow Christ to be Lord of our lives. But they insist that this has absolutely nothing to do with our salvation. They cannot deny that the Holy Ghost (Spirit) has to enter an individual before they can be saved. Yet they choose to deny or ignore the clear statement, "... the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." If this verse is not clear enough Romans 6:16 makes it even clearer. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Taken within the context of the chapter it is clear that Paul is referring to "death" meaning eternal separation from God and righteousness unto eternal life.

In our second study verse Paul admonishes us to fight the good fight of faith. Spiritual pacifism has taken over the minds of the majority of those within the Brethren faith. The Scriptures have been divided into essentials and non-essentials. In addition to this fact, although most of the conservative Brethren do not own a television set the teachings of big name television evangelists have reached them via tapes and the magazines they publish that are often shared by others. Radio, which most of us own, also carries the popular christianity message. Next to "Lordship salvation" the Brethren teaching most dear to our forefathers (and a related item) is the fact that baptism is an important part of our salvation experience. We will not take the time or space in this article to quote the many verses related to this subject but instead challenge anyone to show us one place in the New Testament where an individual was saved without baptism after the death and resurrection of Christ. (The thief on the cross died before these events.)

Our final verse challenges us to continue in the things which we have learned and been assured of along with knowing of whom we have learned them. This brings us full circle. We again ask if our historical faith was based on Holy Scripture or the wisdom of men? We could mention many other things that have been challenged by those of other persuasions. It appears that many are being pressured into accepting the alternatives given. However to do so is to acknowledge that our Brethren faith was not founded on Holy Scripture.

Let us have the courage to hold fast that which is good. Paul says our eternal life may depend upon fighting the good fight of faith.

If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as Lord of your life please consider doing so now. When he becomes your Lord He will also be your Savior. He shed His precious blood for your sins. Will you not live for Him?

James M. Hite 816 E. Birch St. Palmyra, PA 17078

.....

Our Saviour does not make allowances for sin; He makes atonement for it.

# HONOR AND RESPECT FOR OUR FAITHFUL ANCESTORS

My mind was much impressed when I read a church history entitled Some Who Led, written and compiled by D. L. Miller and Galen Royer in 1912. It has photographs and stories about many faithful church leaders of the past two centuries.

Starting with Alexander Mack, Sr. the leader of the group of eight persons who decided to worship God according to saving Gospel of Christ. They desired baptism as examplified by Christ and to live as close as possible to His saving Gospel. Because they were hindered by persecution, many migrated from Europe to America.

They were a brave and courageous people to leave their homeland in a time of much danger, the way they traveled at that time, to cross the ocean. Those who landed here safely were ready to go forward in laboring for the Lord. They had the mission spirit and many moved west and established churches in other states till they got into the western part of our country. They had the utmost desire for the salvation of souls and the upbuilding of God's kingdom here on earth. The Church increased fast in numbers and many were blessed in their Christian welfare, also in the temporal things of this life. They worked with a will and loyally stood for the kingdom of truth.

I was much impressed when reading about John Forney, born April 25, 1815 near East Berlin, Sommerset County, Pennsylvania, the sixth child in a family of eight sons and three daughters. He grew to manhood on the farm and in 1833 he joined the Church. In 1856 he was elected to the ministry. In 1858 he moved to Illinois and lived there till 1869 then he moved his family to a farm near Falls City, Nebraska. In 1870 he was ordained a Church leader and at one time had the oversight of seven congregations. Nine years later he moved to a farm near Abilene, Kansas where his life's work in this world came to an end. His record says he was a very successful farmer, the father of nineteen children, one hundred and three grandchildren and twenty five great grandchildren. On February 6, 1895 his body was laid to rest near Abilene, Kansas.

At that time they did not have the conveniences to travel as we have it today. Many traveled by long walks, horse back or horse and buggy. Many had a long way to visit and attend church services. The blessings we have that make life much easier today to a large extent have not been a real blessing.

The Psalmist David said, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." In the

nineteenth century we have the record that many of the rising generation thought they knew a better way than their faithful fore-parents and the example they set. They turned and accepted the evil fashions of the world. Also in the twentieth Century, our own time, we see much falling away from the plain simple life taught and examplified by our faithful ancestors and many have turned to the evil fashions of the world.

We still have the call from God's Word to be a people separate from those who are living in sin and to be a light in this dark and sinful world. We are living in a time when many will not endure sound doctrine. After their own lusts they have heaped to themselves teachers, having itching ears and have turned unto fables.

Through turning away from the way of truth and righteousness to a large extent we have lost the high standard of morality our faithful ancestors had. The Apostle Paul said after his departure grevious wolves would enter among them sparing not the flock. The saving Gospel of Christ gives us instructions when confronted by false teachers. If any man teach otherwise than the true and wholesome words, from such withdraw thyself. If any come unto you and bring not this doctrine receive him not into your house neither bid him God speed for he that bids him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

If we are faithful and true we have the comforting words, "Fear not little flock, it is my good pleasure to give you the kingdom." The gates of hell will never prevail against the Church of Christ. We cannot welcome in or fellowship the great evils of the world and condemn them if we are led by the good and holy spirit we will accept the saving Gospel of Christ like our faithful ancestors have done.

We need to be faithful and true to the end to have part in the first and best resurrection. The crown of righteousness is not at the beginning of life's pathway nor the middle but for those who endure to the end. When Jesus comes to reward His servants will we be among the faithful and true? We should never compromise with the evils of the world and its fashions. Straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life everlasting and few there be that find it. Broad is the way and wide is the gate to destruction and many there be that go in there at.

There is a sad time coming for those who have not made their calling and election sure. I believe it can be a blessing for us to meditate upon the lives of our faithful ancestors. Lives of the great should remind us we can make our lives sublime that will likewise leave behind us blessed footprints in the sand of time. We should always be faithful and true to Christ our Saviour.

Brother J. F. Marks RD 3 Box 509 York, PA 17402

#### **NEWS ITEMS**

#### MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Welcome to the Mechanicsburg Revival Meeting from June 19 to 26, 1988. We are looking forward to having Elder Allen Eberly as our evangelist. Please pray for a glorious meeting from the Lord, and don't forget to come and enjoy these meetings with us!

Sister Mary Hartz, Cor.

#### NOTICE

There are openings for full time teachers in the Christian Day School of the Bethel Congregation. Interested persons please contact:

> Bro. Marlin Marks R. 1 Box 1178 Bethel, PA 19507 (717) 933-5510 Days (717) 933-8078 Evenings

#### THANK YOU

I received many birthday cards and letters which I greatly appreciated. I have had many visits and many prayers have been offered up for my sickness this past winter and spring. I really do appreciate mail and visitors. May God bless you all.

Sister Almeda L. Strayer

#### THANK YOU

Many thanks to all the Brethren and Sisters who sent cards, flowers, gifts and letters while I was in the hospital, and the many who visited me and also the ones who came and sang for me. Since I am at home, I want to thank you for all the things you have done for me, also the food brought in and for the telephone calls and all who came and stayed awhile. You never will know what it means to see the young people interested in the aged ones in the Church. May the Dear Lord richly bless each member of our Beloved Church is my prayer.

Sister E. M. Alltus

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1988

June 5 - Abraham's Faith Tested - Genesis 22:1-24.

- Did Abraham lose hope of a great nation when offering Isaac? Hebrews 11:17-19.
- 2. Have we given our plans/expectations to God?

June 12 - Sarah Dies - Genesis 23:1-20.

- 1. Though a stranger was Abraham respected? Verse 6.
- 2. Why did Abraham insist on paying for the land?

June 19 - FATHER'S DAY - Mark 9:14-29.

- 1. What quality of a father is mentioned in verse 23 and 24?
- 2. How dedicated are we as fathers to deliver our children from the evil one?

June 26 - TEMPERANCE - I Corinthians 9:1-27.

- 1. What is God's formula for self-discipline? Romans 6.
- 2. As spiritual runners, are we as disciplined as the natural runners?

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1988

June 5 - Sowing and Reaping - Ps. 126, Hosea 10:12-13, II Cor. 9:6, Gal. 6:7-9.

- List the "Laws of the Harvest" in this lesson.
- 2. What "harvest" did you sow this week?

June 12 - Temptation - I Cor. 10:1-4, James 1:2-3 and 12, II Peter 2:4-10.

1. What are the steps of yielding to temptation? James 1:13-15.

June 19 - FATHER'S DAY - Gen. 27:1-46.

- 1. What results when deception enters a family?
- 2. How do we honor our father? III John 4.

June 26 - TEMPERANCE - Isa. 5:11-14, Acts 24:24-26, Rom. 6:16-18, Gal. 5:22-26.

- 1. What is God's formula for self-discipline? Rom. 6.
- 2. What are the fruits of a disciplined life? Gal. 5:22-23.

Paul Stump 10340 N. Diamond Mill Union, OH 45322

(USPS 054-780)

# **BIBLE MONITOR**

VOL. LXVI

JUNE 1, 1988

NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# NOTHING BETWEEN

Nothing between my soul and the Savior, Naught of this world's delusive dream; I have renounced all sinful pleasure, Jesus is mine; there's nothing between.

Nothing between, like worldly pleasure, Habits of life though harmless they seem, Must not my heart from Him e'er sever, He is my all; there's nothing between.

Nothing between, like pride or station,
Self or friends shall not intervene,
Tho' it may cost me much tribulation,
I am resolved; there's nothing between.

Nothing between, e'en many hard trials, Tho' the whole world against me convene; Watching with prayer and much selfdenial, I'll triumph at last, with nothing between.

- C. A. Tindley

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# MISPLACED CONFIDENCE

"Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour." Ecclesiastes 10:1.

Ointments and medicines compounded in a pharmacy must be pure and uncontaminated, if not they can cause more illness than they cure. They may even cause death. If dead flies contaminate the pure ointment, then that which was to be life-saving and health-giving would become instead a source of death and disease.

The wise man compares this contaminated ointment to a man who has a reputation for doing the right thing but who in an unguarded moment does something either silly or even sinful. A life that is usually devoted to doing good can be ruined by the activities of a few short moments or by one unrighteous or ill-advised deed.

This points out that a man must have more than a reputation. He must have character. Reputation is but the opinion of others, which may be right or wrong. Character is a man's true being. This is what he really is no matter what popular opinion may be concerning him.

Unfortunately there are many times when men fail to live up to their reputations. Although they may strive to present a public view that is pleasing and righteous, their characters do not match their reputations. They may be able to maintain that reputation for awhile but sooner or later their true characters will show through. There will be some deed that will break down the facade and allow

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the true character to be seen.

This is particularly true of politicians. For political reasons they will present a popular public image which will make them more electable. They may be able to use this image for many years and win elections based on the public's perception of their carefully cultivated image. But sometime some revelation will come forth that will cause the image to crumble. Even the best of men have secrets in their closets and sometime they will get out.

A President may present an image of goodness and uprightness. He may even seem to be a Christian. If his political views are in line with those of many Christians there may be a tendency to overlook past ungodly associations. Even sin in his life may be overlooked or excused. Over a period of time many things may be revealed that show him to be less than that expected of a Christian. His personal habits may not be consistent with his public image. It may even be revealed that he is not truly guided by the Bible but by false practices which are roundly condemned in the Bible. This is the misplacement of confidence. What looked good turned out to be contaminated like the apothecary's ointment.

This is a reality not only in the political world, but even in the religious world, where it should not be found. During the past few years there have been many revelations concerning the private lives of popular religious leaders. Reputations had been made but the true character eventually become known.

These revelations have again affirmed God's Word that sins will be found out. Men may seem secure in their attempt to hide their past sins, despite their denunciations of these very things. God will not allow men to get away with anything for judgment is just as sure as death.

David could not hide his sins from God. Eventually, God sent Nathan to reprove David. David reacted in a righteous manner. This should be an example for those who are involved in a similar situation.

Men may have gained the confidence of men undeservedly. But their sins have been revealed to show that confidence was misplaced.

These public examples point out the danger in any person's life. There may be sin that is hidden from public view but it can ruin not only the reputation but the character of that person. It is best for each of us to realize the weakness and fraility of our lives. We need to realize that we are not perfect, even though we may have good reputations. It is more important for us to develope good characters founded on the Word of God.

We will be let down by the best of men. Although we may place our confidence in them, there will be something in their lives that will not deserve that confidence. We must be careful in whom we place our confidence.

The failures of men serve to illustrate the fact that God is the only One who deserves our total confidence at all times. He will not fail us. His character is true and constant. Our confidence in men can only be extended to them as far as they actually follow God and His Word.

In whom do you have full confidence? Men may fail you but God never will.

## ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Me First!"

Proverbs 16:18 "PRIDE GOETH BEFORE DESTRUCTION, AND AN HAUGHTY SPIRIT BEFORE A FALL." We are a part of an egotistical and proud generation and how we separate ourselves from this curse of the church and nation will determine our relationship with Jesus Christ. It is perfectly acceptable to promote and praise ourselves today. We desire to be "first" and not to abase and submit ourselves before others. Could it be that we have confused pride and healthy self attitude so now we feel comfortable in uplifting ourselves before others? We "celebrate" ourselves rather than our Creator. We seek to promote our own rights at the cost of hurting others. We are preoccupied with our own importance. Thus, we must heed the warning of Solomon and understand that we are heading in the direction of destruction if our attitude does not change.

Our society is built on the foundation of pride and this foundation is sandy and unstable. The waters of conflict and challenge will continue to eat away at it until it disintegrates and the fall of it will be great. Pride in church relationships, in marriages, in families, and in friendships centers those activities around SELF. It moves others aside and de-thrones God. The church can't survive it! Even our society cannot ultimately survive this preoccupation with self. The emergence of this "pride cult" and arrogance has cut deeply into every part of our lives.

Identified, the problem seems uncontrollable. We may be able to bow down and wash one another's feet but when we rise from the Lord's Table, we want to compare our "height." Remember, on our knees, we are all looking at about the same level. Could it be that the lacking component in the formula of our life is Christ-like LOVE? We condemn the Disciples for bickering about who was the greatest and we show forth an attitude very similar to that.

Jesus served and loved in perfection. He loved people to the uttermost. Even in the most trying time of His life... as He was hanging on the cross at Calvary... He was thinking about others. He

might have been elevated between heaven and earth... but His heart was down on the ground with His people. He would arrange, in love, to have His mother cared for by the Beloved Disciple, John. He would reach out to a dying thief on the next cross and save him. In the midst of all of the pain and suffering, He was conscious of the needs of others and He loved them so perfectly that He put their needs before His. It is only this kind of humility that generates REAL LOVE. This is love that "doesn't seek its own." This is the love that bows before the needs and concerns of others. This is love "in deed." This is also the kind of love that can't be rejected.

If we hurt each other, we hurt Jesus Christ. When we make others heart-sick, Jesus is grieved. He cares! Even as we have "no part with Jesus" when we do not humble ourselves before each other, so we have no part with each other when we do not become like Jesus. We stand aloof and our self-centeredness does not allow us the capacity of love.

When you are tempted to think of your own dignity, your own prestigue and your own rights as a church member... just look up to Jesus and you will see One who would become a slave and wash your feet. He would become a slave and a servant for you. He would put His words into deeds and His feelings into actions.

Have you noticed that some people seem to feel that the nearer you get to the Lord the further you need to be from men? If you are going to isolate yourself and become exclusive and proud, that will happen. But if you understand the terms of sacrifice and service. vou will act and react as Jesus did. You will understand the need to be near others and to be relating to them and their problems and concerns. This is a necessary activity in developing true Christian joy... to cleanse pride from your life and to gain a servant's heart. If you want to claim the promise of peace in your life, you must be willing to suffer for the sake of others. Suffering is a part of the cost of anyone who will count himself a disciple. The world hated Jesus because of this character of self-giving and it will also hate you and look at you as weak and "peculiar." But, then, Christ has asked us to become peculiar. Peculiar has in the context of its meaning the idea of possessing Christ and holding fast to gain mastery over our souls. Pride says that "I can do all things... through me."

It is time to remove the sandals of pride from our feet and take the waterpot of humility and wash off the dirt of the world. Christ's teaching in this area is poignant and powerful. If you lack this mark of a committed Christian, God can transform you into His true disciple. You simply need to surrender to Him and let Him have His will in your life. It will cost you but it is the only kind of life that will truly count for eternity.

## WHEN LOVE ISN'T ENOUGH

Love motivated God to send us His Son, Jesus, so we could be saved. Love motivated Jesus to die on the Cross to make our salvation possible, and it still motivates Him to intercede for us. Christ's love motivates His followers to love each other, and even to love their enemies. It motivates believers to share the gospel, even when it brings hardship or persecution. Love motivates parents to care for their families in tenderness, to guide, protect and pray for God's care. Love is a very strong force.

God is love and all that He does is governed by His love. God is just, but He is also merciful, which means He doesn't give us what we deserve. Because He loves us, He has provided a way so we can be justified and thereby meet His requirements. This way is through Christ. If it were not for "God's love, He would have destroyed us all long ago, but destruction is not His will for us. God desires to "have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." I Tim. 2:4.

Love can touch the hardest heart and make it tender. It can bring out the best in a person and provide motivation where hopelessness and lack of interest in life had reigned before. Love is kind, considerate, patient, helpful and endures to the limit. Love encourages us and lifts us up; it makes us more secure in this topsy-turvy world. But there are times when love is not enough.

We give all we have to give, and yet the situation doesn't change. We love and get a sharp rebuke in return. Our kindness is met by rudeness and unthankfulness. We are falsely accused, even though we try to keep peace. It seems like everything goes wrong even though we try so hard to do things right. Why? Because love really isn't effective until it is responded to!

We know we are to love even though it is rejected. But rejected love doesn't produce the desired effect. God loves us and Jesus loves us, but until we respond to their love and accept it, it doesn't serve its intended purpose. It is like racing a car's engine while the brake is set. The power cannot flow. And when the power can't flow, lives and hearts don't change.

We must make a personal choice to either accept or reject Christ's love. At the same time, we accept or reject His cleansing power. If we resist Him, our will acts like a brake and Christ's love cannot flow to us nor through us. There will be no spiritual power in our lives, just a mere pretense at best. Like the car with the brake set, we just won't go anywhere even though we may make alot of 'noise.'

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Rom. 1:16. The gospel is here, and God's love is here, but that alone isn't enough.

Even though the power is available, it will not do anything for you personally until you accept it. It takes action on your part to make it effective in your life. The power flows when the good news of salvation is accepted by faith.

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." He wants us to act on our love, not just talk about it. In the parable of the sower in Matt. 13, the one who received the seed into good ground had heard and understood, then began to bear fruit. The contact was made with Jesus and His Word first, then the fruit followed. If you love Jesus, you should act like it. Set aside your own notions and do instead that which pleases Him. Love alone is not enough.

"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12:48. Rejection of Christ and His Word will bring judgment. Yes, God loves you, and wants to bless you, but your heart must first be open to Him. You must respond to His love before anything good can be given to you. God doesn't force Himself on anyone; He just says "Come." How you respond is up to you.

"But as many as receiveth him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believeth on his name." John 1:12. Power denotes action, that something is happening, and that 'something' is when we become God's children. When we receive Jesus, the power flows, and we begin to function as part of God's family. In accepting Jesus, we have accepted God's love and pardon, and this opens the door to a whole new life. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17.

Love is a powerful force. It touches hearts, breaks down barriers, and promotes good will. Love is able to endure, even in hopeless situations. Love survives when all else has failed. God's love reaches where human love cannot. How about it? Have you accepted His love and mercy? Some people think God loves them too much to ever send anyone to eternal damnation, but remember — love alone is not enough. You must respond with your heart. Have you?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

## **PRAYER**

In Luke 18:1, Jesus taught that men ought always to pray and not faint. Implied here is the thought that men meet up with circumstances in life that they cannot handle themselves and feel defeated. The remedy is to pray, in earnest, to Jesus about it. We may take all our problems to Him any time we have need.

Prayer is the connecting link between man and God.

Prayer is talking and communicating to God. When we studiously read God's Word He is talking to us.

Prayer acknowledges God's ability to hear and answer prayers, otherwise we would not pray.

Prayer shows our faith in God.

There is POWER in prayer.

James 5:16, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." The condition here, IS TO LIVE A RIGHTEOUS LIFE.

I Thess. 5:17, "Pray without ceasing...", implying that we should live a consecrated and dedicated life so that our relationship with God is such, that we can at any and all times pray, and that our prayer will be acknowledged by Him.

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS. It surely does.

Prayer is not only a directive or healing power, it is a preventive power as well. If we would pray for God to keep us from falling, we would need not to pray that He pick us up again.

In our prayers, we should acknowledge God as our Heavenly Father, then thank Him for our past blessings and favors, then present our petitions and favors.

In praying, we have guidelines established in His Word. John 14:13, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

We read in I Cor. 2 that a man praying is to have his head uncovered. Also, in the same chapter we read that a woman, when praying, is to have a covering on her head.

We know that kneeling is one of God's guidelines to successful prayer.

Solomon kneeled down and prayed. II Chron. 6:13.

Daniel did. Daniel 6:10.

Jesus did, in the Garden of Gethsemane three times. Matt. 26:36-44.

Stephen did. Acts 7:60.

Peter did. Acts 9:40.

Paul did. Acts 20:30.

These are but a few Biblical characters who believed in and practiced prayer. There are countless others.

What should be the subject matter of our prayers? Just what should we pray for? We should pray for:

- 1. The lost.
- 2. For the forgiveness of ourselves and for others.
- 3. For the sick and afflicted.
- 4. For the rulers of our lands and nations.

- 5. For peace in the Church and among nations.
- 6. For the lost, those outside of Christ.
- 7. For personal problems, solved no other way.
- 8. For widows and orphans.
- 9. For peace, unity and brotherly love within each of our congregations.
- 10. For help in resisting the enemy of our soul, the DEVIL.

God does not always answer as we might wish. Neither does He always answer immediately. He knows what is best for our good. But He does answer, "Yes," "no" and "wait a while." Paul prayed three times that the thorn in his flesh might be removed. God heard his prayer, but He did remove the thorn. He gave him sufficient grace to live with it.

Examples of prayer:

- 1. In John 17, Jesus prayed the Father, not to take the disciples out of the world, but to keep them from the evil of the world.
- 2. Dorcas was a woman full of good works. She died. She was greatly missed because she helped many needy people. They sent for Peter. He kneeled down and prayed. He then turned to her. His prayer brought her back to life. She opened her eyes and sat up. Acts 9:40.
- 3. Acts 16:25, Paul and Silas were in prison for preaching the Gospel. They were unafraid. At midnight they sang and prayed. God heard and immediately answered. He literally tore the jail apart. The doors swung open and they walked out free men, after comforting the jailer.
- 4. Elias prayed that it might not rain on the earth and it rained not for three and a half years. He prayed again and the Heavens gave rain.

I urge every Christian to practice an active prayer life. Have a time and place for daily secret prayer, ALONE WITH GOD.

In Matt. 6:6 Jesus tells us to ENTER into our SECRET closet and SHUT the door. For what reason? To PRAY. If we pray in secret, our Heavenly Father sees us and as a result, HE WILL REWARD US OPENLY.

I wish to conclude this article by admonishing as Paul did the Ephisans in Ephesians 6:18. "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perserverance and supplication for all saints;".

Brother Paul R. Myers 5005 Higbee Ave., NW. Canton, Ohio 44718

## SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 1, 1928

#### THE EFFECTUAL FERVENT PRAYER

E. J. Reece

Prayer has been defined to be "the offering up of our desires to God through Christ for things lawful and needful with a humble confidence to obtain them." The parts of prayer are said to be "invocation, adoration, confession, petition, pleading, dedication, thanksgiving and blessing." And the word tells us to pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks. "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." How dependent we are upon God for all things! And as Christ told the Apostles, "without him they could do nothing." In Acts 17:25 we read: "Seeing he giveth to all life and breath and all things." And James says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

And Christ says ask and ye shall receive. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help us in time of need." Heb. 4:16.

And in order that our prayers may be effectual and avail much, we must line up with the conditions that are so plainly stated in His word. James says, "The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much." The Apostle Peter tells us "That the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and his ears are open to their prayers. But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." In Prov. 15:29 we read: "The Lord is far from the wicked. But he heareth the prayer of the righteous."

And John says, "Whatsoever we ask we receive. Because we keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." John further says: "This is the confidence we have in Him, if we ask anything in his will He heareth us."

Peter admonishes "That your prayers be not hindered." The word tells us of many things that might hinder our prayer. Psa. 66:18 we read: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Solomon says: "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, his prayer shall be abomination." Prov. 28:9.

Christ says: "If thou bring thy gift to the altar and there remember that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar and go thy way. First, be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

"Forgive and ye shall be forgiven." But if we forgive not our

brother his trepasses, neither will our heavenly Father forgive us our trepasses.

And when we pray we should pray as Christ when he said, "Not

my will, but thine, be done."

As to how much we should pray and give thanks is plainly stated: "Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks." "For this is the will of God and the Father. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph. 5:20.

Christ says men ought always to pray. We know he is always blessing us. Paul exhorts "That first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks, be made for all men." Not for our friends only, but for "them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

Paul: "Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, in everything give

thanks."

We should pray and give thanks in adversity as well as prosperity. The Christian can. Paul and Silas, after they had been beaten and inprisoned, prayed and sang praises unto God. Yes, God heard their prayers.

Stephen, when being stoned, to death, knelt down and prayed for his enemies. After Peter and John were beaten for preaching in the name of Jesus, Luke says, they departed from the presence of the council rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name; they did just as Jesus had told them. (Matt. 5:12) "Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Why rejoice and be glad for great is your reward in heaven...

And so "Our troubles and our trials here will only make us richer there when we arrive at home." So let us continue to pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks. And as we often sing:

"In every condition, in sickness or health, In poverty's vail, or abounding in wealth, At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea, As thy day may demand shall thy strength ever be."

## THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 10:38, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

Acts 5:32, "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him."

We have shared articles on the danger of "self-love" which in reality gives man the power, the Holy Scriptures reserves for the

Holy Spirit. We have also addressed the issue of unconditional eternal security that falsely teaches that the Holy Spirit can never leave an individual once He enters a life. Some time ago we also looked at the modern Holy Spirit movement in light of scripture as we understand it. When we look at the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ, or God the Father we enter into a realm that our finite minds cannot completely comprehend. It is literally impossible to cover everything that could (and perhaps should) be said about any part of the Trinity or the Trinity as a whole in a short article. Even the volumes that have been written on this subject do not answer all the questions that could be raised.

In this article we would like to look at what we describe as SUPER SPIRITUALITY. There is a modern teaching, especially among the Charismatic movement, that we can become "little Jesuses." As with all such teachings there is a kernel of truth in this teaching. Many scriptures could be quoted to show that we are to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. It can also be proven from scripture that Jesus Christ is our example and we are to follow his teachings. Beyond this it is taught that God's desire for us is that we would be more like Christ. But we believe all of this falls far short of saying we can be a "little Jesus."

This teaching has its basis in the teaching that when Jesus Christ came to earth he left all His glory and power in Heaven. They teach that it was through the Holy Spirit that Jesus was able to perform miracles and teach with power. Our opening verse would seem to give credence to this teaching. However we believe it is important to read scripture within its setting. In Acts 10:36 we read, "The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)" The Greek word used here for Christ, "Christos," means "anointed." It is the same word as the Hebrew word "masiah," which in English we spell "Messiah." Peter who is preaching to a group of Gentiles with Jewish individuals looking on in this portion of scripture, knew that the Jews believed that a Messiah would come to deliver them. It appears that those who were with Peter at this time were, in fact, Jewish believers. But they had not accepted the fact yet that Jesus Christ came to save all people. They still wished to limit salvation to those who were born Israelites or who first accepted the Old Testament laws and customs and then became Christians. It is also possible that some had fallen for the Pharisee teaching that ONLY Jewish individuals could find favor in the eyes of God. Therefore, Peter had to preach to the Gentiles while not offending his Jewish listeners. Peter was also aware, of course, of the fact that Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah to the Jewish nation. So what he preached cannot be construed to be a compromise. While the Gentiles may

not have fully understood the impact of his message, the Jewish listeners probably did not miss the significance of the fact that this Jesus of Nazareth whom God anointed with the Holy Ghost and with Power was Jesus (the) Christ who is Lord of all. He was the promised Messiah. After this message the Holy Ghost fell on the Gentiles with signs following.

The scene of our second verse, Acts 5:32, (which of course took place previous to our first verse) again finds Peter speaking. The text says that the other apostles spoke also but it would appear that they merely confirmed what Peter was saying. This time Peter is addressing only Jews and unbelieving Jews at that. While it seems as if the teaching of the Holy Spirit was lost to the Jews who lived at the time of Christ, these Jewish leaders were well aware of the teachings in their scriptures that referred to Him. Space will not allow us to go into detail. But suffice it to say that the Jewish leaders recognized that to link God the Father (verse 30), Jesus Christ (verse 31, though not mentioned by name in this verse) and the Holy Ghost (verse 32) was much more than an attempt to say that Jesus was "baptized with the Holy Spirit."

While those within the SUPER SPIRITUALITY movement speak long and loud about "gifts of the spirit" and the extra power given to individuals very few of them stress obedience. In fact a vast majority of them see those who accept teachings such a I Corinthians II to be legalists. They stress love over the written word of God. But this scripture clearly says "the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." We will leave their eternal destiny in the hands of God who is the perfect judge. But we are less than impressed with their claims of super spirituality! Because of the lack of real respect for the Word of God much false teaching has invaded this movement.

In conclusion, let us be willing to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let us not be judgmental of others but discerning. May each of us be more willing to allow the Holy Spirit to have control of our lives. But never become so spiritual that we feel we do not have natural and physical temptations and struggles to battle.

If you have never experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life you must first accept the gift of God's Son Jesus Christ and His death on the cross where He bled and died for the sins of the world. The Bible also teaches that baptism is a part of this experience. Obedience is the sign and seal of experiencing the forgiveness of sin and the gift of the Holy Spirit (which is different from the gifts of the Spirit). May God grant us wisdom and love as we go forward in His name.

James M. Hite 816 E. Birch St. Palmyra, PA 17078

## THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Conversion of Cornelius
J. H. Moore

The last conversion that we shall notice is that of Cornelius, a devout Gentile, living at Caesarea, the best unconverted man of whom we have any account in the New Testament. For proof that he was unconverted, and therefore unsaved, when visited by the angel, and told to send for Peter, we quote from Acts 11:14. The angel, speaking of Peter, said: "Who shall tell thee words, where by thou and all thy house shall be saved." By this it will be seen that Cornelius was not a saved man until he accepted Christ and complied with the Gospel conditions of pardon. So far as he understood God, he was a devout man, and his prayers were heard in heaven, but he was not a converted man in the New Testament sense. It required more than what he knew, at that time, about God and his will, to save him. So he was told to send for Peter, who would tell him words whereby he might be saved; that is saved from the sins of the past, and be made a member of the body of Christ.

Peter's preaching led to his acceptance of Christ, and when he was baptized he was numbered among the saved. The Holy Ghost falling on him at the time it did, was not only regarded as proof of his full conversion, but as proof of the fact that the door of salvation was opened for the Gentiles, as well as for the Jews. Peter, seeing this clear evidence of the acceptance of the Gentiles, asked if any one could forbid water, that these believing Gentiles might be baptized. They were then baptized, evidently for the remission of sins, the same as had been commanded on the Day of Pentecost.

In order to complete his conversion, Cornelius had to take the steps required of others. He believed in Jesus, turned from his errors, whatever they may have been, and put on Christ in the holy rite of baptism. He was not merely transplanted, as some teach, but was born again, and made a new creature in Christ Jesus. His conversion did not require so great a change as that experienced by Saul, but there was a change, nevertheless. There was a new birth, the necessary reformation in life, — the New Testament baptism, and the translation from his former state into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Like other men who accepted Christ, he had to be born again, and had no assurance of salvation until the new birth was completed. Generally speaking, he was the best man outside of the church, for his day and generation, but he did not become a member of the mystical body of Christ until he made the good confession and put on Christ in baptism.

Receiving the Holy Ghost before baptism was the reversal of the rule, and was intended in this instance to convince Peter, and those with him, that the Gospel promises were for the Gentiles as well as for the Jews. (Acts 11:17-18). And since this is the only instance where the Holy Ghost was given in this manner, it must be evident that the incident was a well-understood exception to the rule.

But as regards the conditions of pardon, we have in this case just what we have found in the former instances cited. The conditions were the same for Saul, the chief of sinners, as for the devout Cornelius. They were the same for the eunuch, the high official of Ethiopia, as for the three thousand converted on the Day of Pentecost. For all, both Jews and Gentiles, there is the one Lord, the one faith, and the one baptism, the one law of pardon, and the one process of conversion. There was the usual birth "of water and of the Spirit," without which there is no promise of entrance "into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5)

## **NEWS ITEMS**

#### BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation enjoyed Spring Lovefeast April 23, with the following ministers bringing to us the Word: Eugene Kauffman, Frank Shaffer, John Peffer, Rudy Shaffer, Ronald Marks. Bro. Marks officiated in the evening.

The Lord willing we are planning a series of revival meetings, July 15 to 24, with Bro. Michael Wray, Pleasant Home, California as the evangelist. We invite all who can to come and worship with us.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

A man said; "I thank God for that word 'whosoever.' If God had said there was no mercy for Richard, I am so vile a sinner that I would have thought He meant some other Richard; but, when He says whosoever, I know that includes me, the worst of all." If I could come to you from the upper sanctuary, with a letter of invitation with your name and address on it, you would not doubt your warrant to accept it. Well, here is the Bible, - your invitation to come to Christ. It does not bear your name and address; but it says, "Whosoever;" that takes you in. It says, "All;" that takes you in. It says, "If any," that takes you in. What can be surer and freer than that? \*\*\*\*\*

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

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NO. 12

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# MY GOD, MY FATHER

My God! my Father! cheering name! O, may I call thee mine! Give me with humble hope to claim A portion so divine.

This only can my fears control, And bid my sorrows fly; What real harm can reach my soul Beneath my Father's eye?

Whate'er thy providence denies, I calmly would resign; For thou art just, and good, and wise — O bend my will to thine!

Whate'er thy sov'reign will ordains, O give me strength to bear; Still let me know a Father reigns, Still trust a Father's care.

- Isaac Watts

## **OUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

Fathers are very important people. God has designed the family so each member of the family has a particular and necessary function. Fathers are providers, as well as disciplinarians and organizers of the family's activities. Fathers may seem stern and strict at times, but later the family will appreciate this demonstration of his love. Fathers protect and instruct their children.

A father likes to be called "Daddy" because it denotes tender care. A father can play with his children and enjoy their games, but he can never be a pal with them. There is always the barrier of respect that keeps him from being just another playmate.

A home without a father is incomplete. Families which lack a father have a price to pay even if the other family members do their best. The lack is not simply in the material provision supplied by the father, but his leadership and discipline.

Fathers are held in low esteem by many today. Some women try to assume the man's role. Some children try to rule the home. Entertainers use fathers as a buffoon and make him an object of comedy. Despite these various attacks on fatherhood, fathers are very important. Fathers are necessary for the continuation of the human family. They are necessary for the home to function properly. Fathers also serve as symbols of God, the Heavenly Father.

God has designed a part of the father's role to be a reflection of His own work and characteristics. The earthly father portrays to

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his children God's position over the human race. A man cannot fully nor faithfully portray God but God has set him in a relationship that shows at least to earthly minds something about Him. This role is important because a young child cannot easily conceive of an invisible God, but he can learn of God, by observing his earthly father. This is why a father's activities and examples are so important. If his activities are not godly the child may get a false impression of the Heavenly Father. The father's role is very important.

In the earthly father's position we can see many parallels with the Heavenly Father. God wants to be the Spiritual Father of each one. By creation each person is a child of God but until he makes the good choice to accept God, on His terms, he is a prodigal son. The unconverted are wandering away in sin and uselessness. God wants, as every father does, to have a good relationship with his children. He wants them to know His tenderness as well as His sternness. As the adoptive Father of believers He wants to be their "Daddy." Even though He desires this closeness, there still remains the aura of respect necessary for the children's proper growth. God is not a pal or playmate. He is the Heavenly Father. He should be addressed in terms of respect and reverence when approached in prayer.

Our Heavenly Father is a God of love. Since the creation of the world, He has blessed men in many diverse ways. He has especially blessed men Spiritually. He has given hope to men of

gaining eternity to serve Him more.

Our Heavenly Father is not only a God of love but also a God of order. He, like an earthly father, maintains the order of His family. He has given ordinances and commandments to be carried out. He has left a government for the Church to carry out His plan. He wants His family to be well behaved just as an earthly father does.

God at times may appear to be stern and severe. This view is held by those who have not experienced His love nor have Spiritual understanding. What seems to the unconverted to be harsh and unloving appears to the Spiritual minded Christian to be direction which will help him to be a better Christian.

We give our earthly fathers honor for their part in providing for us and disciplining us so we could live more productive lives. We should give even more honor to our Heavenly Father. His design for us is better than what our fathers ever fathomed for us. He provides not only temporal blessings but Spiritual blessings that will last beyond this life.

Our earthly fathers do their greatest work when they by word and

deed point us to our Heavenly Father. A father's greatest work for his family is to live so they will want to be a part of God's family. We are thankful for what our earthly fathers have done for us. We are eternally grateful for what Our Heavenly Father has done for us.

# ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Are you a committed Christian?

Today, people wear all kinds of Christian symbols as jewelry to tell others that they are believers. Even bumper stickers and posters are used to identify people as Christian. Are these the things that identified the people of the Lord as believers in the early days of the church? Did they wear a tee-shirt with a slogan on it to show a deep commitment to Jesus Christ? Today we are SO superficial. We want to have some sort of a visible symbol and not the internal makings of a child of God.

Rather than being preoccupied with the witness of "things," we should be absorbed in the glory of God. This means that we let Him manage our lives according to His will through His Spirit. It means that we let go of self and the things of this world and we put all things in the hands of our Maker. I would like to call this CHRISTIAN LIFE MANAGEMENT. Most things have to be managed properly if they are to be effective and successful. This is true of business, of personal funds and of our lives. Our life must be managed in such a way that God's person will be glorified in us and His will will be done through us. We must concentrate on His themes, His motives and for His purpose. We must reflect the Lord in all of our actions and activities. We must take on His character attributes in order to glorify Him.

We need to wear Jesus' cross on our hearts and not around our necks. It is a symbol of shame, of mockery and humiliation and represents the most vile accusations and insults of man. The cross only becomes a thing of beauty as we understand that it represents victory and the glorification of Jesus. It was not silver but was the roughest of wood. It was not shiny but blood stained. We glory in the One who was on it... not the object He was on. The cross is FINISHED. Jesus is alive and well and we must commit ourselves to an alive Christ.

One of the most effective ways to glorify Christ is by declaring His word to others. That message will radiate His glory and put Him at the apex of your constant thinking. As we communicate Christ, He becomes bigger and bigger and we relate more effectively to His power and purity.

Commitment is offering up our lives as a love sacrifice to Him.

Our faith in Jesus is a faith in the ultimate Lover of our souls. He was a sinless sacrifice for us and illustrated in His life and in His death what the final wages of sin are to be. If our sins were suddenly flashed on a screen in the sky... would we be terribly embarrassed that our commitment was not what it should have been. Jesus' life was literally flashed on the sky as He hung on the cross and the message the people read there was "Truly, he was the Son of God." "Sinless, no guile at all." We need to spend more time glorying... not in ourselves, but in the one who finished His perfect work on the cross. If we are going to "burn out" as many people are doing today, should we not be "burning out" for God? It is hard to imagine what some of the people of the cults put themselves through in their concentrated effort to find God through those mediums. They will prostrate themselves on the ground several times each day, they will cut themselves and dance to exhaustion. They will cut off their members or starve themselves. They will work at selling flowers on a busy street for eighteen hours each day. What will we do for Jesus? Will we just serve Him in simple unfailing love and childlike faith? Will we joy in His uncomplex service? Will we penetrate the hating world with His love and give them a vision of an eternity in glory?

You have God in your life and you must be sheding Him abroad in your hearts. You must be living by His rules and functioning by His regulations. You must be making a mark on this generation by setting the standards of your life high and living daily in selflessness, in understanding others and in forgiveness. If the world sees nothing different in you than they see in everyone else... you are not a committed Christian!

You are a part of His Church. Are you spending time in activities such as criticizing, gossiping, backbiting and dividing? The world is looking at you and they have to see a visible manifestation of God's love in your life or they will have no desire to have what you have in Jesus Christ.

I know that most people outside the conservative church are baffled by us. They are looking at the spectrum of what we call "Christian" and they are not seeing the commitment that should be our identifying mark. WE ARE LACKING. WE HAVE BEEN FOUND WANTING. We have to stay in tune with the basics of the Word of God. We have to get behind His Church and show forth His characteristics in our lives. We have to admit that we have been wrong and that we will be willing to make the wrong, right. We must learn to accept whatever comes our way and maintain a loving testimony.

In other words, we have to be faithful... COMMITTED. This involves loyalty to God, to the church and to each other. It involves bragging less about who and what we are and doing more about it. It involves praying more and talking less about it. It involves acting with loyalty and finally, it means following "up-close."

Are you everything that you promised Jesus you would be? Life is eternal. Are you marked to be His? Only the committed Christian is promised eternal life. Re-evaluate! Are you a committed Christian?

Brother Len Wertz

#### ARE WE DUPLICATING SODOM?

It has always been my aim, prayer and motive to design sermons that would be soul-satisfying and interesting to the young people of our beloved Church, sermons that would be beneficial and helpful in molding their future lives. It was a great blessing to me to see some young Brother or Sister take their stand for the Lord.

I have seen, in my short life-time, a change in attitudes, among older people, a greater permissiveness to endorse, allow and almost encourage the younger generation to do whatever they choose to do. I make an exception here between Plain Church people and the world and worldly churches.

We read in Romans 12:1-2 as follows, "I beseech you therefore, Brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God." This scripture pretty well covers what God wants a child of His to be and to do.

Satan has other and many deceptive plans he uses at every opportunity to cause us to sin and loose favor with God. I Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the DEVIL, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." The devil tempted Jesus, but Jesus did not yield.

The Apostle Paul, in Romans 7:21 states, "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil (Devil) is present with me."

As we approach near the end of this age, the devil knows his time is short, therefore he is working his mightiest. We all have him to contend with. He uses different approaches to gain his end. He keeps well abreast of the times in which we are living.

I wish, by God's help, to alert us to some of his cunning and deceptive ways. He is tempting young people to sin through every medium available today.

Today we have in America telephone companies which provide a DIAL-a-PORN service. Pornographers have taped messages, very lewd, very explicit and I say very sinful. A twelve year old boy spent two hours calling dial-a-porn message services. After listening to these taped messages, he corrupted a four year old girl.

The parents of the boy and girl sued Pacific Bell and the dialaporn companies charging them with negligence and causing emotional damage to the two children. Those two young folks are suffering psychological damage. The boy has threatened suicide several times. The parents feel disgraced in the community. Where does the fault lie? It lies with those who prepare these wicked messages and the companies that make them so easily available. As a result of the lawsuit, the companies were fined \$100,000.00 and forced to take such programs off the air.

Brent Ward, a United States Attorney for Utah, successfully forced two dial-a-porn companies out of business. In his testimony before the ATTORNEY GENERAL'S Commission on Pornography, Ward noted that "The most alarming aspect of the dial-a-porn was the exposure of large numbers of children across the country to these vivid dramatizations of illicit sex conduct, lesbian acts, sodomy, rape, incest, beastility and other rank sex acts."

The underlying object of these companies in engaging in such ungodly acts was the money they derived from broadcasting smut. The moral and spiritual damage suffered by those who turned in can never be accurately assessed. SHUN EVIL AND KEEP THYSELF PURE.

Another strong influence against chastity and Bible teaching is the teaching of sex in our public schools. In many schools the study of sex is compulsory from the fourth grade up. And in the same schools they dare not have prayer or read from the Bible. Instead of transforming the mind, such teaching is corrupting the mind of our young people. THE DEVIL SEEMS TO HAVE HIS WAY in our day.

Sex education should be taught to the children at an appropriate age and taught by the parents. What they hear on the street and see on television gives them a false impression and banters them to experiment, resulting in determental consequences.

In one instance where a school teacher was teaching the subject of sex, one of the older boys over-powered her and took full advantage. She reported him to his parents. They very emphatically asked her why she was complaining since she taught her class the subject.

Engaging in such acts is yielding to the lust of the flesh. James 1:15, "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin,

when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

Obscenity is a great evil of our day. You can hardly pick up a newspaper or magazine today, that does not have obscene pictures throughout its pages. The devil uses the press to arouse passion, the lust of the eye and lust of the flesh. Older people can control their emotions, but it can become a serious temptation and challenge to the younger folks.

Give your heart and life to the Lord Jesus and He will help you to overcome Satan's temptations. You cannot overcome him in your own strength.

Much obscene mail, though it is illegal, arrives in mailboxes, unsolicited. We do not send for it, but mailers get names and addresses from mailing list suppliers. Included in junk mail are floods of offensive catalogs and obscene pictures. Writing to the mailers of this trash does not stop it. The surest way to stop this material coming is to tell the postmaster to list your name as opposed to receiving such mail. Thirty days after your listing, any company that continues sending you such material will be subject to court action and a fine of \$10,000.00. This listing is good for five years, unless you move to a new address. Then you must re-file your complaint. We can be thankful that the Postal Service gives a helping hand in this matter.

Television is responsible for much indecency brought directly into the sanctity of many homes. The American Family Association at this present writing, is taking the Federal Communications Commission to court, for permitting indecent programming during the late hours of the night. The Federal Communications Commission has extended the hours of DECENCY enforcement from 10:00 P.M. to 12:00 midnight. By this very action, television broadcasters admit to the showing of indecent pictures. Certainly, such programming runs counter to God's purpose and plan.

Many parents are unaware that their children are taping these indecent shows for later showing. How much better it would be if PARENTS took their CHILDREN and all become active in some fundamental Church, making the same decision for their home as Joshua did when he said, "As for me and my house, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD."

As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the coming of the son of God. They were marrying and given in marriage.

Think of some of the conditions we are facing today. Children killing parents, arson, drinking, smoking, drugs and profanity are just some of the conditions our young folks have to cope with.

Available are such magazines as Hustler, Playboy and Playgirl, which are not only morally indecent, but are definitely anti-christian. The law should prohibit their publication.

Part of James 1:27 admonishes to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. That necessitates being on our guard at all times.

I have to comment on one of the gravest sins of our day, according to a number of writers I have read after. That is the disease called AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). If God's created people would not commit fornication, adultery and not use needles to shoot themselves drugs, authorities state that there would not be AIDS.

This is one time man has not been able to provide a remedy. God has so far ruled that the victim is doomed to death. Not a very bright future for "the pleasures of sin for a season."

I quote a minister, by the name of Sanuel West, as follows, "When a man goes beyond or contrary to the laws of God, nature and reason, he becomes the slave of base passions and vile lusts; he introduces confusion and disorder into society, and brings misery and destruction upon himself. The servants of sin and corruption are subject to the worst kind of tyranny in the universe. Hence, we conclude that where licentiousness begins, LIBERTY ENDS."

I quote and am in accord with a speech made by Larry Arnn, Chairman of the Claremont Institute, as follows, "American History teaches that most of the great — and all of the good — political turning points in our country's past were brought about by movements that began within churches. That, surely, must be the case again if we are to recover ourselves from the disaster that approaches."

In conclusion, give serious thought and prayer to the scripture as recorded in Phillipians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, THINK OF THESE THINGS."

Brother Paul R. Myers 5005 Higbee Ave., NW Canton, Ohio 44718

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Little things are like weeds, the longer we neglect them, the larger they grow.

#### SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 15, 1928 CHRIST, THE DOOR G. W. Reitz

"Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold but climbeth up some other way the same is a thief and a robber, but he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth and the sheep hear his voice; and he calleth his own sheep by name and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him; for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him; for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them. But they understood not what things they were which he spoke unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers. But the sheep did not hear them. I am the door, by me if any man enter in he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:1-10)

If we take the whole passage down to the end of the sixteenth verse as containing one parable and its explanation, the parable seems to divide itself into two parts, in the first of which our Lord likens himself to the door of the sheepfold, in the second, to the shepherd. We will here consider the first part only. The sheepfold in that age and country was very different from ours. enclosed within high walls, and was entered by a door. This door was kept by a porter who would of course open it to none but those who had a right to go in. If a thief therefore came, he would not try to enter by the door, but would climb up by the wall in some other place; and whoever did so, would be proved thereby to be a thief and a robber; for if he were the shepherd, the porter would readily open to him, and he would go in by the door. It is not difficult to see that by the sheepfold is meant the Church of Christ, within which his sheep or people are as it were, kept and fed. And it is equally plain that the shepherd of the sheep means the true minister of the gospel. In the latter part of the parable we shall see that Jesus himself is the good shepherd. But here, when he says, "He that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep," he is probably speaking of an under shepherd, a minister; for there

would seem to be some confusion in his speaking of himself in the same sentence both under the figure of a door and under that of the shepherd who goes in by the door and there is no confusion in the teaching of our Lord. In explaining the parable he tells us plainly what is meant by the door. "Verily, verily, I say unto you I am the door of the sheep." He himself is the door of the sheepfold, and by him every true shepherd goes in. But the Jewish teachers did not go in by him. When once he had come and proclaimed himself as the Son of God, the promised Messiah, they ought to have believed in him and received him and taught the people to do the same. Then they would have been true ministers of God, going in by the door to tend the flock. Instead of this, they rejected and opposed him. Thus they proved themselves to be no shepherds, but thieves and robbers. For every true shepherd went in by the door, Christ Jesus, but they climbed another way. This applies to ministers of the gospel now. If any one does not go in to the flock by Christ as the door, he is no true shepherd. He may bear the name and fill the office outwardly as even the scribes sat in Moses seat; but unless he has received Christ himself by faith, and become partaker of his spirit, and unless he preaches Christ as the way, the truth and the life, he is no real minister of his. He does indeed appear in the sheepfold, and profess to feed the sheep; but he has not come in by the door, he has climbed up some other way. What is he then? A thief and robber. If he preach any other doctrine than that of Christ crucified, he is but stealing the hearts of the people, robbing them of the truth, misleading and deceiving them. And if he has undertaken the ministry and still carries it on, not from faith in Christ, and a desire to spread his kingdom and win souls to him, but from some selfish or worldly motive, then also he is not a true shepherd; for he has gone without being sent, he has taken an office to which he was not called, he has not entered by the door, he has no right to be where he is. "If any man have not the spirit of Christ," says the apostle, he is none of his. And if any one who is outwardly Christ's minister be destitute of the spirit, surely, he too, is really no minister of his. "All that ever came before me," said our Lord, "are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not hear them." Probably he still meant to allude to the Jewish teachers just before his coming and the very time of it; for he could not be speaking of the ancient prophets. Now it is expressly said that the people were astonished at the teaching of our Lord, "for he taught as one having authority, and not as the scribes," showing that the Jewish teachers, not being true teachers, had no weight with the people. They were thieves and robbers, not shepherds and the sheep did not hear them or follow them. There was nothing

in their teaching to touch the conscience or to meet the wants of the soul, for they did not speak from God, whether our Lord in this first part of the parable alludes to himself at all or being the chief shepherd or whether as before supposed he here speaks of himself under the figure of the door only, and means by the shepherd a common minister it is clear that he describes what will be the effect of every true minister's work. All who go into the sheepfold by the door, and simply and faithfully preach Jesus Christ, will find that the sheep hear them. The faithful ministry of the word will never be in vain. There will, indeed, be many failures and disappointments; yet some at least of those who hear will hear to the saving of their souls, and will be brought into the true spiritual fold of Christ. There is attractive power in preaching great gifts will often draw the crowd to hear whatever the substance of the preaching may be; but that which will win hearts is the simple preaching of Christ. God's word does not return to him void. The parable beautifully shows the close and loving union between a true minister of the gospel and those to whom he ministers. Going in and out among them in his Master's name, he is gladly welcomed by them. To him the porter openeth. Some think there is a special meaning in these words, and that they signify the entrance which the Holy Spirit gives the minister of Christ into the hearts of the people. I am rather disposed to take the words as showing more clearly and forcibly that the true minister enters the sheepfold, the door, Jesus Christ, and that when he so enters there is none to hinder him or dispute his right. There was a porter to the ancient sheepfold; but it does not necessarily follow that in the spiritual meaning there should be any person answering to him, for not every part of a parable has its counterpart. But even when taken in this general way the words express a free and continued intercourse between the minister and his flock. As the shepherd went in and out at the door, and the porter always opened to him, so the faithful pastor, ministering the gospel to his flock and doing all things in the name and in the power of his Lord, finds a welcome with all who are truly sheep of Christ. He knows them one by one, and tenderly cares for each. He leads them into the green pasture of the word of God, and feeds them, and tends them, and watches over them. They are not afraid to follow him, for they know him to be faithful and true. He will not teach them false doctrine, or lead them astray. They can trust him well, for they know that he calls them to follow him only as he follows Christ. The shepherd goes before and the sheep follow. "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them and the sheep follow him; for they know his voice." The shepherd leads the sheep out to the pasture and himself shows

them the way, while they follow at his call. In like manner the faithful minister not only points out to his people the way, but leads them in it, himself walking before them and showing them a bright example. Let ministers be careful to teach as well by their life as by their words. It is sad when these do not agree. But it is happy indeed when the preacher is himself an example of the truths he preaches, and goes before his flock in the way in which he is continually exhorting them to walk. But the door of the sheepfold was for the sheep as well as for the shepherd. There was but that one entrance. So Christ is the door both for ministers and for people. None are truly sheep of Christ's flock but such as enter by him. "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." Though Christians will follow, and that rightly a faithful pastor, yet he is not their hope. their strength or their way, Christ himself is all this, and Christ alone. They are not only to enter by him at first and thus become sheep of the fold, but ever after they are to go in and out by him, and through him to be preserved from danger, and receive food for their souls, and grow in grace. Their life is to be in Christ. By him they are to approach the Father; in his name they are to pray on his merits and meditation to rely. He came that they might have life. and have it abundantly. He is their life; for one figure can by no means express all that Christ is to his people. He is their door, but he is their life too, and a thousand things besides, for he is in face their all. Let us make sure that Christ is the door to us. Let us try no other way, but enter by him alone. Then let us go in and out by him enjoying through him all the safety and happiness of the sheep of his fold. Let the sheep beware of following a stranger, lest he should prove a thief and a robber. Let them be attracted by no outward show, and misled by no strange doctrine; but let them cleave to the simple truth as it is in Jesus, and bring all preaching to that test. And let all who minister in holy things look to it that they prove themselves true shepherds of the flock by entering in at the door, Jesus Christ. Let them not preach themselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord. Let them, both in their souls and in their ministry know nothing as a ground of hope, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. Let them be simple, faithful diligent pastors. Let them point all to the Lord Jesus; behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world, and strive to build up believers in him. Then their work will not be in vain. Them that honor me I will honor. Though their work may be small, and their sphere narrow. Yet they shall have souls for their hire, and in the great day there will not be wanting some who will be their crown of rejoicing.

#### HONOUR CHRISTIAN MOTHERS

We have the record in God's Word of some mothers who were faithful and true to the Lord and some who were not. In the Garden of Eden, Satan won his first victory with his deceitfulness in getting Eve to obey him. True Christian mothers are obedient to the saving Gospel of Christ. We have the record of some good Christian mothers in the Gospel of Christ.

As I undertake this subject, my memory goes back to my boyhood days when the blessings of God were supplied in abundance in our home. There were eight children in the family. It kept Mother very busy preparing the necessities of life. Grandfather died when I was eight years old and Father built an extension on the house so Grandmother could come and live with us. When she came she bought us New Testaments and labored earnestly to get us interested in the saving Gospel of Christ. I am now in the room where she labored so earnestly. She told me she read the Old Testament through three times and the New Testament seven times. She spent much time in reading the Bible and singing gospel songs. Her favorite song was "Look Ever to Jesus." Her prayers were thankfulness for God's blessings. She said she was looking forward to being with Grandfather in Heaven.

I remember Mother saying when children are small they tramp on your lap and when they grow up they tramp on your heart. In my short life this has been the case too many times.

We who have been blessed with Christian Mothers can never repay the debt of gratitude that we owe them. The bountiful blessings I received in the home when I was young will always live in my memory. Those who have Christian Mothers today should show their appreciation by giving obedience and honour to them. Christian Mothers are faithful and true to the saving gospel of Christ and become a good example to others.

Sixty years ago I took two boys eighty miles to see their Mother whom they had not seen for many years. While we were returning home these boys sang a song from the depth of their hearts. That song was "You Will Never Miss Your Mother Until She Is Gone." I was impressed very much how they seemed to appreciate what seemed so little to me, because they had been put away from home when they were small. Then to know of many who had Christian Mothers who cared for them till they were grown but did not appreciate the bountiful blessings they received. We who have and had Christian Mothers should be thankful and show our appreciation for them by obeying the saving Gospel of Christ.

We have many professing Christian Mothers today who are not

obedient to the saving Gospel and are not a good example for their children. They are sowing to the flesh. The end of that is corruption. They should sow to the Spirit to inherit life everlasting.

Do we show our appreciation for Christian Mothers as we should? My Mother and Grandmother passed away many years ago. Their good Christian example will always live in my memory. If we remain faithful and true to our Saviour we can again live with them in a much better place than this world.

Narrow is the way that leads to life everlasting and few there be that find it. We who have and had Christian Mothers, let us honour and respect them and show our appreciation for them by obedience to our Saviour, that was and is their desire for us to do. There was an old saying, "If you love your Mother, meet her in the sky." Christian Mothers deserve respect and honour. We can never fully repay the debt of gratitude we owe them. The joyful mother of children, praise ye the Lord, the Psalmist David said.

Brother J. F. Marks RD #3, Box 509 York, PA 17402

# **NEWS ITEMS**

# GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

We enjoyed another Lovefeast time and District Meeting here at Grandview, Missouri once again. The crowd numbered nearly 100. We were blessed with several ministers: Brethren Warren Smith, Dale Jamison, Len Wertz, Joe Flora, and Ray Reed. We thank all who came and for prayers offered by those who could not come to make it a good meeting. Visitors are always welcome.

# THANK YOUR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

We wish to express our many thanks and great appreciation to those who remembered us by sending cards, letters and many telephone calls our way during our difficult times. Also for the many prayers. We could never repay your great acts of kindness and may God richly bless you as you continue to remember us in your prayers.

In Christian love, Brother and Sister George Throne

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1988

July 3 - A Wife for Isaac - Genesis 24:1-67.

- 1. Notice Abraham's concern that Isaac have a Godly wife. v. 14.
- 2. How involved should parents be in children's choice of companions?

July 10 - Abraham's Death; Jacob and Esau - Genesis 25:1-34.

- 1. What was the significance of the birthright?
- 2. What two present day nations are represented in verse 23?

July 17 - Jacob and His Wells - Genesis 26:1-35.

- What are the spiritual applications of God's command in verse
   ??
- 2. What was Isaac's response to the loss of his wells?

July 24 - Rebecca and Jacob; The Blessing - Genesis 27:1-40.

- 1. What was the blessing Esau longed for?
- 2. How can fathers today give "the blessing" to children?

July 31 - Jacob Hated by Esau - Genesis 27:41-46; 28:1-9.

- 1. What was the root cause of Esau's hatred?
- 2. Why was only Jacob sent to Laban's house for a wife?

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1988

July 3 - Come Unto Me - Isa. 55:1, Matt. 11:28-30, Luke 14:17, Rev. 22:17-19.

- 1. Why is this invitation important? Acts 4:12.
- 2. Where else can we go for Life? John 6:68.

July 10 - Healing of Blind Man - John 9:1-41.

- 1. Why should we be working? verse 4.
- 2. Why were the Pharisees really upset? verse 34.

July 17 - Feet Washing - John 13:1-17.

- 1. Why are we to "wash feet?" Matt. 23:11.
- 2. Are we willing to gird ourselves and serve others daily?

July 24 - Anointing - Mark 6:12-13, James 5:13-18.

- 1. Why is oil a part of the anointing service?
- 2. What will save the sick? verse 15, 16.

July 31 - The Phillipian Jailer - Acts 17:23-40.

- 1. When we suffer does our witness draw men to the Lord?
- 2. Do we "count it all joy" to suffer for Jesus?

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# STEP BY STEP

When the shadows thickly gather, Clouding all thy onward way, Think not what shall be tomorrow, Seek God's help just for today.

Should the coming days bring burdens, Or be fraught with grief or care, Trust Him in the hour of trial, He will make thee strong to bear.

Daily strength He ever giveth, For each day rich grace bestows; And each morrow, as it dawneth, Still His loving kindness shows.

Then why should we shrink or falter When the onward path looks dim, Knowing light will never fail us While we walk by faith with Him?

- Kate Ulmer

#### **DROUGHT!**

The prime topic of conversation this Spring and Summer has been the drought. Across this country there has been a lack of rainfall, along with abnormally high temperatures. High temperatures and dryness is expected in desert areas of the country but lately these conditions have affected most of the country. Dry conditions have affected parts of the country where abundant rainfall is expected.

The seriousness of these conditions will increase if they continue. Not only is the heat and dryness uncomfortable now but the effect upon future food supplies could be very serious. Crops will not develop sufficiently to provide adequate food for humans or for the animals used as meat by humans.

Drought is common in Africa and Asia but it is not expected in America. With our highly developed, scientific methods of farming and crop management, we cannot imagine this happening to us.

This present drought has lasted a few weeks so far. Perhaps by the time this is read, there will have been a break and the rains will have come. But, what if the drought continues throughout this growing season? What if it continues through another year or two? With the amount of agricultural land taken out of production by the increase in land needed for residential use, the lower yields of crops would be incapable of meeting the food needs of the country. Surpluses may provide some of the needed food, but the surplus will only last so long.

Not fully knowing the mind of God we can only speculate on the reasons for this present drought. Perhaps it is only a natural

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occurence or it may be a special message from God. It may be the fulfillment of prophecy. The economic distress caused by a prolonged drought could bring about the conditions that would make plausiable the mark of the beast! Prolonged drought could soon reduce all but the most wealthy to poverty. Food would become very dear. How many would give up their faith in order to have food?

The drought does show that men are not fully in control. Men have devised many methods to increase the yield of crops but when rain is withheld these plans fail. Men have devised many implements to plow, till, plant, cultivate and harvest crops but without rain these implements become useless. Without the Godgiven rain and fertility men's plans become vain. Men must realize that they may plan and labor but it is God who gives the increase.

This physical drought may imply a Spiritual drought. The Word of God is readily available in our land. It can be bought or borrowed or received as a gift. There are no restrictions against it being read or listened to. Bible studies and preaching services are readily available. There certainly is no drought of the Word of God. But there is a drought of understanding and obeying it. The drought is in the hearts, minds and lives of Americans. The Bible may be revered as literature but it is ignored as instruction for living. People are sure they are able to do as they please. Some may piously say that they read and follow the Bible but their living belies their professed piety.

Special drought can be seen in many areas of people's lives. It is shown by what has priority in their lives. Personal or public opinion usually counts for more than the Bible's instructions. Sight would tell us that the Bible's instructions concerning dress and personal appearance are being generally violated. The Bible's instructions concerning fornication and adultery are openly argued against and shunned in practice. Characteristics like truthfulness and honesty are not widely found. In general the population of this country is guilty of all the sins written in the Word of God. There are very few who even know, much less practice, the lessons of the Bible. Certainly there is a great drought of Biblecentered living in the United States today. Little wonder that God would permit a physical drought upon such a people.

So far the drought, while a nuisance and potentially harmful, has caused little permanent damage. This in God's mercy gives this country an opportunity to repent.

While the Christian may not enjoy the task of delivering such a message, he should be pleased that God cares enough to give this warning, else destruction come totally and suddenly. May this drought awaken and bring to God the people of this great land.

#### CORNERED!

"A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still." It takes alot more to change a person's mind than a "high-pressure sales pitch" and it takes even more to change a person's heart. A good witness can stimulate someone to think about his soul's need, but the end result depends on God. Bringing more pressure to bear very often just makes the situation more tense and causes resentment to build up. Cornering people is not God's way of spreading the Gospel.

An animal will fight when cornered. So will people. Putting people on the spot may coerce some into submission, but it will not produce a heart-change. Such pressure may produce verbal agreement, but it will not motivate a person to a better way. Eventually the resistance will surface again, because the coercion actually reinforces it. Thus nothing is really accomplished except to further alienate the person who needs help.

Man's way is to pressure people, to coerce, or force an issue, to try to talk someone into something. This rarely accomplishes any lasting good. God's way is to invite, to coax, to lead. He wants us to come to Him of our own free will, not because we've been trapped into it. We like to be able to say, "I really told him", or "I sure straightened him out," but God is not pleased when we corner people. Even when we must deal with a problem, we won't try to impose our will on another person, if we are doing God's bidding.

The Bible says in Ecc. 3:7 that "there is a time to keep silence, and a time to speak." This means there is a proper time and way to confront someone, and there is also a time to back off and let God do the rest. Some Christian people have a problem speaking up when they should, but a whole lot more have the opposite problem. They don't know when they've said enough and they just keep on nagging and pressuring others. It is as though nothing will ever be right if they don't do the convincing. The face is God does the convincing and He alone can make things right.

Jesus said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:". (John 6:44) God may use teachers or preachers or friends to witness, but no one is drawn to Jesus by pinning him or her in a corner, or by pressure to change one's way. No matter how convincing our witness is, if the Lord doesn't work in a person's heart and soul, nothing will really change.

Jesus alone can change hearts and lives. Whenever we persist in pressuring someone, whatever our reason, we may just be interfering with instead of helping with, the work of the Holy Spirit in that person's heart. "He that hath knowledge spareth his words:" Prov. 17:27a. In other words, when we know what we're doing, we

will say what needs to be said, but no more. Sometimes, this may mean not saying anything at all, because we can see that silence is best.

"The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious;" Ecc. 10:12a. A wise person is sensible and has good discernment. His words will be kind, compassionate, and understanding. He will not put people on the spot, but will invite them to Jesus. At times, he will encourage others to seek a closer walk with Jesus. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. His invitation is simple, but also gracious, the way ours should be.

Whenever we are asked to give up something we've been accustomed to, whether it's right or wrong, we feel threatened even when treated with kindness. To be cornered by someone intent on reforming us is even worse. God does ask us to let go of certain things in life, but He does not jerk it away from us. God wants us to trust Him enough to let go, and then allow Him to fill that void in our lives. Man's way of trying to change our thinking makes us more resistant, but God's way enables us to both change and trust Him.

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17. How nice it is to receive an invitation, and know someone wants to be with you! Whatever the occasion, we respond much better to an invitation than to a demand. Jesus invites any and all to come to Him, to receive life in its fullness. He doesn't pressure or corner us, just invites and waits and loves. Let's do the same.

Sister Fileen Broadwater

# ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Christians in an election year....

It would seem very timely to address the issue of politics in this year of local, state and national elections. I feel that there are many people who are a part of the conservative faith who are being misled by radio teachers and by community leaders to believe that they are not fulfilling their obligation to their country if they are not in some way involved. Of course, Romans 13 teaches us to be subject unto the higher powers. We pay tribute where it is required and we obey the laws of the nation. But as citizens of the Kingdom, this is about as far as we are Biblically allowed to go in involvement in the world's system.

We need to establish that we cannot justify social action against the system. That is also outside our role as a non-resistant follower of the meek and lowly Saviour. Violation of the law, attempting to subvert or overthrow the political powers is out of the question for us. I realize that we are living in an almost "post-Christian" era but we are still to hold firmly to our faith, standards and ethics and uphold Christ's work midst the turmoil of the day. Our beliefs can't erode just because the values of this nation have eroded to an all time low. As a nation, we have lost our Christian orientation and it seems we would almost be challenged to protest this situation and break either God's laws or the nation's laws in doing this. The church might well lose its freedoms, religion may be classified as anarchy... and yet, we do not have the authority to fight for "rights" which are beyond God's Kingdom. Our religious rights are those principles given to us in the Word that allow us to worship the Father according to His will. The so called "rights" of the world are not given to us to make life easy and comfortable so we are not to spend our efforts in preserving them. It is so easy to prostitute the church in this way and become activists for a cause that becomes extra-Biblical. We are not a political force, individually or collectively. We are a vital force, an army, for the Lord and His causes.

Our message to the world is neither social or political. We live as spiritual men and women in a temporal state. Our message is salvation to the lost, peace to the frustrated, joy to the sad, love to the unloveable. Our priority is to live quietly and peaceably among men. We can not engage in promoting social change or political mandates. Our energy is to be channeled into preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yes, we promote a life of sinlessness and yes, we expose the evils of this age... but only in the context of offering the alternative of Christian living and commitment to the Bible believing church.

Our world is unfair, right? So was Rome in the time of Christ. He entered into the world as a part of a hated minority, of high taxes, of persecution and slavery. But He didn't come to change the government or to eliminate all of the problems of life. He came to appeal to the hearts of people and He mandated us to carry out that kind of ministry today.

I admit to you that there is severe tension today. The economy is almost a wreck... as was prophecied. The social order is unfair... as prophecied. The world is full of war... as prophecied. But do not concern yourselves with these things. Let your minds be occupied with the souls of men. Put your energy and resources to use in promoting the Kingdom of God. Be a zealot for the Lord.

Just as was true in the time of the Roman Empire. Christians today are being watched. The world wants to see how we will react to the events of the day. Will we lose our cool? Will we formulate an agenda and activate a force of social or political action? Jesus

Christ taught against this kind of thinking and He was hated for it. We may also be hated for standing apart from this system but it is necessary if we are to be as He was and followed Him. Ultimately, I believe that the only way we will be tolerated by the world is to stand firmly on the principles and the promises of God relative to politics and in all other facets of life. The only think we can do is live peaceably with all men and be honorable, upright, Christ centered citizens. If you constantly criticize people in the system, if you become active in promotion for social or political change, you will give the world reason to persecute you and to criticize the work of Christ and the church. This must always be foremost in our minds... how we are presenting the Lord. It is not how we look, but how the Lord looks that is important. Are we giving Him a bad name with our actions?

The only time that it would be impossible to obey the laws of the nation is if they are in direct conflict with the Scripture or if we are not free to worship God. Throughout history men have been persecuted, imprisoned or even killed for their faith and this, of course, seems unjust to us. But all in all, to obey Christ at all costs is our mandate as a part of His family.

The Bible teaching on submission extends itself to our duty to those who have authority over us in the government. I see conservative Christians beginning to make distinctions between good laws and bad laws, good rulers and bad rulers. This is not the issue. Fair or unfair is not the issue. The issue is remaining true to God. The laws of our land have been very favorable to us over many years but if these laws change and things continue to get more difficult for us, we must still submit and stay a part of the unchanging family of God.

Brother Len Wertz

#### **FORGIVENESS**

Recently we commemorated another Passion Week of our Lord. His Resurrection followed His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, His great suffering, His beautiful prayer in Gethsemane, His mock trial, His cruel crucifixion, His death and burial.

In this Garden, Jesus was arrested. His disciples forsook Him and fled. He was tried before Pilate, Herod and Caiphas, then back to Pilate. He found no fault in Him. At this time, Pilate could release a prisoner. He held as a prisoner a man named Barabbas, who was a NOTABLE prisoner. He gave the people a choice. "Whom shall I release unto you, Jesus or Barabbas?" They cried out, "Barabbas." "If I release unto you Barabbas, what then shall I do with Christ?" They said, "Crucify Him, crucify Him."

Pilate then ordered Him scourged, which was a terrible, painful ordeal to endure. Following this scourging, Jesus was delievered to be crucified.

On Calvary's Hill, Jesus was hung on the cross, there to suffer and bleed and die. Blood dripped from the thorn pricks in His head, from the nails in His feet and His hands and flowed out from His side which was thrust with a sword.

After great suffering, darkness fell over the land and several sayings of our Lord while upon the cross, HE BOWED HIS HEAD AND GAVE UP THE GHOST. At this time the veil of the temple was rent in twain, from the top to the bottom. There was an earthquake, and the rocks were broken apart.

Jesus was buried in a new tomb, hewn out of solid rock, by a follower of Jesus, named Joseph who was from Arimathaea. He wanted to do this for Jesus so desirously that he begged Pilate for Jesus' body. Pilate consented.

Some remembered that Jesus said that after three days He would rise again, so they got the authority from Pilate to secure the tomb. They placed a large stone over the mouth of the tomb, they sealed the stone and set a watch. On Resurrection morning the tomb was void. Angels said, "He is not here, He is risen." Man's efforts to keep Him in the tomb failed. He was seen alive after the resurrection by individuals, by the disciples several times and on one occasion above five hundred people.

Why did Jesus have to endure Passion Week? For the simple purpose to make atonement for our sins. It was the plan of God that we might have FORGIVENESS of sins and inherit ETERNAL LIFE.

The above brief outline of Passion Week was designed to bring to our minds afresh the cost of redeeming us from the penalty of sin. To be redeemed we have to be forgiven of our sins. And for us to be forgiven, we MUST forgive each other.

Now, I come directly to my subject, "FORGIVENESS." Forgiveness means to pardon, to erase, to blot out. There are many scriptures on forgiveness in God's Word and it is essential that we heed them.

In Hebrews 9:22 we read, "... without shedding of blood is no remission (forgiveness) of sins." The blood has shed by Jesus on the Cross during Passion Week. During this same week He gave us a perfect example of forgiveness. In behalf of all who had so shamefully treated Him and were now taking His life, He held no bitterness. He wished them no harm. He cried out, "Father, FORGIVE them for they know not what they do." A perfect example of forgiveness.

Matt. 6:14, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:" Implied in this verse is the fact that if we do not forgive men their trespasses, our Father in Heaven will NOT forgive us our trespasses. Unforgiven, we stand condemned.

We have another scripture in the Lord's prayer, namely Matt. 6:12, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." In proportion to our forgiving, we will be forgiven. If we forgive not, we will not be forgiven. Thus, we can see the importance of having a forgiving spirit.

In Matt. 6:15 we have a final verse on the matter of forgiving or not forgiving each other. "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." An unforgiven person will never enjoy the bliss of Heaven.

Luke 17:3-4, "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou SHALT forgive him." To forgive a person so many times may run counter to human nature, but it is a command of God. God probably has to forgive us more often than we have to forgive our fellowman.

Bringing the matter of forgiveness down to our own immediate lives, we read in I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Oh, hard it is to acknowledge that we do wrong, but if we confess it, God will forgive.

Eph. 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

To forgive is to lift a heavy, depressing feeling and it unburdens our heart and mind. So, also, in being forgiven.

Our hope of Heaven depends on our forgiving and being forgiven.

Brother Paul R. Myers 5005 Higbee Ave., NW Canton, Ohio

......

A girl went into her master's room to steal. There was a portrait in the room; and the eyes of the picture seemed to follow her wherever she went; and in order that she might steal without this rebuke, she took down the portrait, and cut the eyes out. Had she been able to pluck out God's eye, she might have stolen without remorse.

#### SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 1, 1928

#### NONCONFORMITY

D. W. Hostetler

In Romans 12:2, Paul speaks of nonconformity to the world and says we should be transformed by the renewing of the mind in order that we may prove the perfect will of God. That is, the will of God is to be proven to be a fact, a living reality. In Acts 1:8 he says the apostles should be able to prove that Christ is what he represented himself to be — the Son of God and the Savior of the world. Now it is true that we cannot prove the perfect will of God and conform to the world, follow her in her ways. That is just what Paul is saying we should not do. We are to be transformed.

It is not right or desirable to narrow this text down to one particular thing. I think that the proper application of this text is anything that the world does that is wrong or is a hindrance to spiritual progress, as Martin Luther in his translation has interpreted this text, "Stellet euch nict der Welt gleich," which means, "Don't present yourselves to be world-like, but change yourselves."

Then, this text says: "Be not conformed to the world." First, we may say, in civil offices, especially such offices as would require the officer to violate the noncombatant or nonresistant principle. (I Peter 3:9-12; I Thess. 5:15-22.) It might be well to restate here the principle of the church in 1789, under article 3: "Further, it has been discussed and unanimously deemed good and evangelical, that all brethren, in all places, should shun all worldly offices, so as not to serve in any of them, provided it is possible to be relieved from them — such as supervisor, assessor, or also jurymen, and so forth. Yet it is considered with some difference, such as supervisor, or overseer of the poor, perhaps, might be served with least objection provided there is no suing or something else contrary to the word of the Lord. If a brother should be elected to one of these offices contrary to his will, then only those things he would have to do contrary to the gospel should be rebuked in love and kindness according to the will of the Lord."

This is the first decision passed by Annual Meeting and we find that Article 8 of Section 1 of the Declaration of Principles in perfect harmony with the mind of the brethren in Conference in 1789.

Second in worldliness in games, plays, performances, unions, and other organizations that are manifestly worldly; shows, fairs, and movies, is contrary to the gospel of I Thess. 5:22. I think that should be sufficient, but let me state again that in 1835, the

brethren in Conference decided against members attending shows, and in 1859 against fairs. So we see that the Dunkard Brethren are in harmony with the brethren in the fifties.

Third, "Be not conformed to this world in carnal warfare, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." (I Cor. 10:4.) Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." (John 18:36.) I think we should here read Isaiah 5:9 aloud. There is a great deal said in these days about world peace, and conference after conference is being held to establish world peace; but it has been said, someone dropped a monkey wrench into the peace works at Nations have gone home and are making greater preparation for war. As long as the Prince of Peace is rejected by the nations of the earth, they will not have universal peace. Some day Christ will come again to earth and the beast and false prophets will be cast into the lake of fire and the Devil into the bottomless pit. It is then that we shall enjoy Isaiah's prophecy of 2:4.

Fourth, the text would say, "Be not conformed to the world by affiliating with oath-bound secret organizations." (John 18:20.) II Cor. 6:14-15 says: "Be ye not inequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness, and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" Then in verse 17 Paul further says: "Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you."

In 1804, Annual Meeting put herself on record as being opposed to members uniting with secret orders. See further Annual Meeting minutes of 1828, 1847, and 1855. These give the position of the church in those days and we find the Dunkard Brethren in perfect harmony with the conception of these scriptures that the old church held.

Fifth, In matters of temperance, our position is in harmony with Paul's teaching in I Cor. 9:25, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." Temperance is the practice of self control, or moderate use of a good thing, but when it comes to things that are not good or things that are wrong, we must have prohibition. We are living in an extravagant age. People are spending much of their time and money for things that are worse than a waste of money. The rich can afford it and the poor make themselves poorer by trying to keep up with the rich. One hundred

and forty-five years ago the brethren put themselves on record as opposing the distilling of ardent spirits and classed it as an idol and in this decision the distilling of ardent spirits was prohibited by the church. Now it is encouraging to know that the nation has come over on our side of the question, and as we work in the cause of prohibition and in the matter of ardent spirits we need to be very careful along other lines and not be a stumbling block to others. I recall that a few years ago a great many people were very busy helping to rid the town and countryside of the saloon, but were so immodestly dressed that their efforts hindered the cause they sought to aid more than they helped. In our work of temperance, let it be total abstinence from things that are wrong and the moderate use of a good thing.

Sixth, I think the test of nonconformity would apply to the modern use of orchestras and all musical instruments in so-called worship. Musical instruments in the house of the Lord are out of harmony with the true idea of worship and praise. Paul says, "Be filled with the Spirit." Again he says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." It is sometimes said that David used instruments in his worship. True, but stop a moment. Didn't David practice polygamy and commit adultery? The fact that David did these things does not make them right for us. Note what the prophet Amos says in 6:5 in reference to David's instruments. In conversation with an elder some time ago on this subject, he said to me: "You read in Rev. 14:2 about the harps in heaven, we have a right to use them here in the church." Very well, let us continue that logic. If a literal interpretation of harps is to be made, a literal interpretation of horses in heaven, mentioned in Rev. 6:2, must also be made. Making the same application, horses must be baptized into the church.

Seventh, Nonconformity means to refrain from going to law. It is too plain to be misunderstood, for it says: "Dare any of you having a matter against another go to law before the unjust and not before the saints?" Then he tells us that the saints should judge the world, and if that is true, they are able to judge the smallest matters. Brother going to law with brother before unbelievers is utterly wrong. Would it not be better for the saints to suffer wrong and be defrauded than to violate the nonresistant principles? For a saint to go into a regular law business is exceedingly inconsistent in the light of the above teaching, and cannot be tolerated.

# THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Conversion, a Process J. H. Moore

By conversion is meant a change from one state or condition to another. The doctrine of conversion provides for three changes.

First, a change of the mind. This change is brought about by hearing the Word and believing it. The man who believes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, has in his mind undergone a change from unbelief to belief. The change has been wrought by the Word being received into a good and honest heart.

Second, a change of conduct. The change is effected by repentance. The man who believes is convicted of sin. This conviction leads to godly sorrow, and we are told that "godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation." (II Cor. 7:10). In the act of repentance the convicted man ceases to do evil and proceeds to do right. With him it is "right-about," turning away from the kingdom of Satan and seeking the kingdom of God.

Third, a change in relationship. This change is consummated in the new birth, being born of water and of the Spirit. It is a putting on of Christ in baptism, or being baptized into Christ, and consummates the process that places one into the kingdom, and thereby makes him a child of God.

In this whole process there are the divine agencies, the Word, the seed of the kingdom, and the Holy Spirit. It is a case of God working in the hearts of men and women "both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Phil. 2:13). In all these changes the human and divine parts are in evidence. The faith that changes a man from an unbeliever to a believer is wrought by the divine Word in the heart. Repentance is produced by God working in the heart and soul to will and to do. In the change of the relationship, the new birth, we have the ever-present Spirit, at the most active period in the entire process of conversion. It is the making of a new creature in Christ Jesus, the burial of the old man, and the resurrection of the new man. By the yielding of the human forces, or the surrendering of all that is human to the divine influences and agencies, it is the consummation of a work in the scheme of redemption for which there is no parallel.

# I SAW HIM

I had no intention of seeing Him there in that most unlikely place... but I did! I saw Him there in a shelter for the homeless where children, teens, middle aged, the old — come to get food, lodging, clothing, and to find solace.

I never thought I'd see Jesus there!

But there He was in our very midst.

I saw Him serving a cup of coffee, a bowl of nourishing soup, a sandwich or a donut

I saw Him giving me clean clothes and a pair of shoes.

I saw Him bandaging my sore, aching feet or taking me to the hospital for medical care.

I saw Him going to court with me as a friend and advocate.

I saw Him giving me a warm shower and a clean bed. Sitting with me in the chapel as I refreshed my troubled soul.

I saw Him — sitting in our midst... and I felt His presence.

I felt His concern, His love — for me.

He cared for ME, just a "nobody" from the streets.

I saw Him — Jesus — and He saw me.

# Selected by Sister Ruthanna Sauerwein OBITUARIES

#### MAY RICE

Sis. Ella May Rice was born May 9, 1895, died March 11, 1988, aged 92 years, 10 months and 2 days. She was a daughter of the late Joshua A. L., Sr. and Frances E. (Moser) Rice. She is survived by one sister, Goldie J. Rice and one brother, Joshua A. L. Rice, Jr.

She united with the Church of the Brethren at the age of thirteen and affiliated with the Dunkard Brethren, February 2, 1930 in which she remained faithful until death.

Funeral services were conducted March 14, 1988 at the Mountain Dale Dunkard Brethren Church with Elders Jacob Ness and Frank Shaffer officiating. Interment was made in the adjoining cemetery.

#### PEARSON RICE

Bro. Pearson Silas Rice was born near Mountain Dale, Maryland, January 26, 1897. He died April 30, 1988 at the age of 91 years, 3 months, 4 days. He was a son of Isaiah and Mary (Shankel) Rice.

He married Lillie Hahn who preceded him in death December 16, 1964. He is survived by six daughters and one son, also two sisters, one brother, fifteen grandchildren, twenty-five great grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He united with the Church of the Brethren at the age of twenty-two years and united with the Dunkard Brethren Church, February 2, 1930. He was called to the office of deacon, March 15, 1931 which he held until death.

Funeral services were held May 4, 1988, at the Dailey Funeral Home, Thurmont, Maryland, conducted by Elder Joshua A. L. Rice assisted by Elder Frank Shaffer. Interment was made in the Mountain Dale Dunkard Brethren Church Cemetery.

#### **NEWS ITEMS**

#### ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

We send a welcome to all who can join with us in a ten day Revival at the Englewood Congregation. Brother Gordon Jamison will bring the messages, July 22 through July 31.

If the Lord permits, we will, also, have our Harvest Meeting July 31. We covet your prayers.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

#### SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation, invites you to our Revival Meetings, the Lord willing, July 31 to August 14. Elder Fred Pifer from Adel, Iowa will be our evangelist. Pray and come and hear the Gospel messages from the Holy Word of God by our Brother.

May 22, we enjoyed another beautiful day, and a real blessing as we shared in another Lovefeast occasion. We thank all the visitors who came, especially the visiting ministers: Allen Eberly, Paul Hartz, Joshua Rice, Rudy Shaffer, Emmert Shelly and Kenneth Wilderson, with Bro. Merle Sweitzer officiating in the evening.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

#### PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation has planned their Harvest service for August 7 with Elder Edward Johnson as speaker. There will be morning and evening services, and a basket dinner at noon. Come and worship with us.

Sister Eileen Broadwater, Cor.

#### BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

The Lord willing, Broadwater Chapel Congregation plans a one week revival, July 31 to August 7. There will be a Lovefeast service Saturday, August 6. Bro. Rudy Shaffer will be our speaker. Come and enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Lavona Sines, Cor.

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

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JULY 15, 1988

NO. 14

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# HE DEPENDS ON YOU

For the honor of the King press forward, Ever ready for His least command; Rouse to duty! swift the days are flying, Showing others on which side you stand.

For the honor of the King by loyal, As you mingle with the busy throng; Life is not a time of ease, but conflict; Claim His promise till your heart grows strong.

For the honor of the King live nobly, Cast aside each sin whate'er it be; While His precious name is in your keeping, Let the world in you His likeness see.

For the honor of the king faithful prove in ev'rything, Speed the work He bids you do; For the honor of the King other lives rejoicing bring; He depends on you, He depends on you.

- Lizzie DeArmond

#### COMPARTMENTS

In each of our homes we have a place to put things. It may be a desk drawer, a cupboard, a room or a building. The idea is to have a certain place where each thing may be stored. To avoid clutter and confusion a certain amount of organization is necessary. If kept neat and orderly these compartments keep things so they may be readily found.

The pigeonholes of the old fashioned country post office were compartments for separating the mail of each postal patron. Some people's minds have pigeonholes in which they classify others. They separate people according to their preformed prejudices. Whether by name, skintone or occupation they form an opinion that puts each person in a compartment. Once put in a pigeonhole it is difficult to escape from it in that person's mind.

There are other mental compartments that can be formed in people's minds that can be dangerous to their Spiritual health. Mentally people can make compartments for the various areas of their lives. Every life has many interests and the tendency is to separate one interest from another. Each interest becomes important at a certain time.

Some of the areas making up our lives are our work, recreation, home, hobbies, social life, financial and business affairs. At certain times during the day or week our greatest interest is in a certain activity. It is necessary to give our full attention to our employment. If we are lax there our mistake may be a threat to other's lives or well being. Too often we are more serious about our hobbies or sports interests than about more serious things. These amusements often keep us entertained so we do not seriously consider

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the more important issues of life. Business and financial affairs can often come to the fore. While there is a need to be diligent in business affairs, too often the love of money brings sorrows to the soul.

Just as these various activities have a place in our lives so we put our Spiritual lives into a compartment. We reserve our Spiritual activities for Sunday and certain other appointed or traditional times. Instead of the Spiritual being the basis of our total lives, it becomes just another compartment. It comes to the forefront at an appropriate time but is put away at other times.

Although our ancestors were noted for their application of Biblical principles in their daily lives, today, we do not always see the connection between our Christian profession and our daily activities. We think of how we can best and easiest perform the task before us. We give little regard to what Biblical principles might apply. We are very quick to defend and proclaim the doctrines we are taught and mentally approve of, but many times we fail to apply those same doctrines to daily situations.

We are very adamant in proclaiming the doctrines of non-resistance especially as it applies to military service. But when there are disensions and disagreements in the work place, are we non-resistant? Or do we become very belligerent. When challenged by another to physical violence are we willing to be called "chicken" or must we vindicate ourselves. When considering the policies of our nation do we become bellicose, urging firm, destructive military action although we would not personally want to participate? Are there other areas where our profession is commendable on Sunday but on other days it bears little relation to what we do or say?

We need to be very careful that our profession gives color to what we wear, where we go and what we do. Especially with the amount of leisure time available there is more opportunity to do things that would have been impossible a few years ago, when we were farmers. Time that could be used in many Spiritually improving ways is too often used to bring us into closer contact with the world. In subtle ways we are tempted to do things that may only marginally violate our Spiritual scruples. But having yielded a little it is easier to yield more when successive temptations come.

These times of yielding come because we have broken our lives into compartments, among those compartments is one for our Spiritual life. Rather than being the over-ruling power of our lives, it has become but one little part. The Lord must truly be the Lord of our lives not just another person demanding a few minutes of our time.

Is your Spiritual life a compartment requiring only minimal service or does it influence all of your choices and activities?

# PASSING ALONG OUR FAITH

(A Study of Nahum)

Have you ever wondered what possible application certain Scriptures have for today? Having read through the book of Nahum in my daily readings, I was left pondering this question. About all I understood was that Nahum certainly had no great love for the city of Nineveh! He spends the majority of his time pronouncing woes and curses on this wicked city. What possible lessons are there in all this for the contemporary society of today? Realizing that ALL Scripture is inspired of God, even the Minor Prophets, I decided to do a little checking up on Nahum before going on to Habakkuk.

Not much is known about the prophet Nahum. His name means, "full of comfort," or "consolation." It may be that the Capernaum of the New Testament (Literally: Village of Nahum) was named after him.

At the time of the writing of Nahum, the Northern Kingdom of Israel had already been taken captive by the Assyrians (or Nineveh) for as many as one hundred years. The message was given to Judah, who had about 35 years left until their own captivity in 586-587 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

Nahum is writing about a city whose inhabitants had been converted over one hundred years before his time by the preaching of Jonah. Even though Nineveh had repented under the preaching of Jonah, these people failed to pass along their knowledge of the true God to their children and grandchildren. The people had quickly gone back to their cruel and heathen practices. So God pronounces judgment on Nineveh through His prophet, Nahum. The prophecies of this book were fulfilled in 612 B.C., perhaps ten or twenty years after they were written.

Nahum begins with a great description of the majesty of God (Chapter 1:2-14). Included is a statement about the anger of the Lord. When God executes His judgment, He does it completely. There will be no need to do it twice (verse 9)! Notice that to this day, the city of Nineveh still lies in ruins.

The remainder of the Book of Nahum is about the judgment of God on Nineveh. Judgment is predicted. The "destroyer" was approaching. Nineveh was warned to man the fortress, watch the road, strengthen her back, and summon all her strength!

The nature of the coming judgment is depicted. The invasion of Nineveh is described in fearsome detail. The chariots enveloped in flashing steel refers to the practices of the Medes and Babylons of

attaching swords or scythes to the wheels of their chariots. Imagine the effect this would have when being madly driven through a crowd of people.

The gates of the river being opened and the palace dissolved gives insight to the interesting account of how Nineveh was conquered. The walls of Nineveh were so massive that no one could batter them down. But the Medes and Babylonians released the city's water supply and also permitted the Koser River to greatly increase its flow through the city, dissolving the sun-dried brick of which much of the city was built.

Nahum then takes time to tell why judgment will come to Nineveh. The people were murderers, liars, warmongers, slaveholders, and they were involved in all sort of sexual sins and witchcraft.

The Book closes with the message that judgment is coming to Nineveh, and there's nothing they can do to get out of it! The prophecy states that all who hear about Nineveh's doom will clap their hands, or rejoice!

The message that grips my heart from the Book of Nahum is that Nineveh turned terribly wicked so soon after the general repentance under the preaching of Jonah! One would think that the people would have remembered the account of how God's anger was turned when the whole city repented in the face of impending doom! But in about three or four generations we see that Nineveh was as wicked as it ever had been!

Proverbs says that, "Children's children are the crown of old men" (Proverbs 17:6a). From this we see that the test of whether or not a man is successful in passing along his faith can be seen by the faith (or lack thereof) of his grandchildren.

The people of Nineveh in Jonah's day failed to make their faith real and alive to their children.

The only way we can expect our children to pass on a deep faith in God to their children is for us to be continuously applying God's principles to our every day lives — by living our a Christ-like example. We can't just pass on the rules and traditions. We need to explain Biblical principles and live accordingly before our children or they will not realize why it is so important to live according to the laws of God.

How are we doing on our test of passing along our faith? Can we say with John, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."? (III John 1:4)

Brother Robert Lehigh

#### CHRISTIAN AMERICA IS SPIRITUALLY ADRIFT

#### Part 1

I am inspired to write this article after reading numerous articles by men who are in the "know" as to the serious situation America is actually in. What is publicly known is corrupt enough, let alone that which is hidden and unknown to the average citizen.

America was founded and settled by men and women who daringly ventured over the briny deep, in search of religious freedom. They maintained a deeprooted faith that propelled them to leave their homes and kin in search of a land where they could worship God as their conscience dictated. As time moved on, that small band of believing people grew in number and was greatly blessed of God. They practiced the motto imprinted on our present day coins, "In God we trust." As a result, America became the greatest and most Christian nation on earth.

How about today? Within our own lifetime, we have seen a definite, downward change. The more intellectual and knowledgeable people become the further they draw away from God. As a consequence of Christianity forsaking the old paths, what do we have?

We have many atheistic schools, God forsaken homes, drugs, child abuse, every type of crime, abortion, pornography, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, unmarried men and women living together as man and wife and permissiveness of every description. There is a spiritual desolation unpreceded in our nation's history. America has about arrived at the place of no return. She is close to the place where the Israelites were as recorded in Judges 17:6. "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

It appears that many people think that they can get through life on their own, without God and Christ. They rely on other ways and means to see them through. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Any and all other ways, except the Christ way will lead to dead ends.

Instead of searching the scriptures and living and worshiping as Christ demands, Americans are relying on their politicians, philosophers, psychiatrists, astrologers, seers, fortune tellers, dope, and so forth, to ease or eliminate their problems and secure them peace of mind. Pursuing such a course will come to a dead end, also. All of the above have been tried in the past, but failed. In earlier years, the intellectuality of Greeks, the technological brillance of the Romans and the worshiping of idols were insufficient to still the discontent of human hearts.

It took God's giving of His Son, Jesus, dying on the cross, to provide a way for man's salvation and peace of mind. John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." From the time of the giving of His Son, there has been only one LIGHT OF THE WORLD and one hope for mankind. I Cor. 15:19, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

Those who do not look to Christ for their comfort and salvation are looking in the wrong direction. They will be greatly disappointed in the final end. Jesus will say on that day, "... I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity." Luke 13:27.

The Israelites learned over and over that it was by repentance and submission to God that they could survive and prosper. We should fervently pray for a rebirth that made America a great nation in the first place.

If every professed Christian would submit to God's will, there would be no way to describe how God could turn this nation around. God made a promise to the Children of Israel in Chronicles 7:14 and it is applicable to us in our time. Study and meditate on it. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS: then will I hear from heaven, and WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, and WILL HEAL their land."

To be continued. Brother Paul R. Myers 5005 Higbee Ave., NW Canton, OH 44718

#### ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

#### Priorities

How many times I have looked at the lives and activities of the Pharisees and condemned them because they were so tied up in the externals of their existence and had very little to do with reality in life. Of course, it is always easier to look afar rather than near by.

What are the priorities of the church today? Are they stressing practical, immediate needs of our brothers and sisters? What is the fundamental calling of the Dunkard Brethren Church? Today's priorities are setting the future direction of the church.

One of the first priorities of the church is to minister to the family. Without strong families we have no future church. Young people are the future leaders and evangelists and disciples. We must be

about the task of aggressively building strong character into the lives of youth. The place of the Sunday School, Christian School and family fellowship must be high on our priority lists. These are the institutions that build family fiber and structure.

Too many times today we see the attitude that our family activity is a drudgery. Mothers see priorities outside the home as most important. Fathers see the job as most important. Both see the mission as a far away place for the saving of the souls of another culture. Seldom do we see our greatest mission field right in our own home. This is the nucleus spot of teaching. It is the place where ministry and outreach begins. It is the unquestioned most significant work of individuals and the church as a whole. Could we even conclude that it exceeds the importance of preaching, counseling and outside missions?

Because of the importance of the teaching of youth in the church, we should make sure that Sunday School teachers meet rigorous standards and have as in-depth learning as possible. Teaching is as important as preaching and we would not like to think that we are very casual in the ordaining of the ministry. Church leadership needs to be spiritually gifted and skilled in their calling and this should also be a priority in the ministry of teaching.

Our priority in teaching should be application rather than intellectual and mental gymnastics. Too much teaching is just "cerebral." Our priorities in teaching might well need redefining.

It seems easier to send someone to the mission field to reach the lost and ignore our families and neighbors close at home. We are all missionaries and disciples and we need to have that missionary vision and disciple's heart that will encourage us to reach out to local church members who are hurting, who are struggling with many aspects of survival in the culture we live in today. We are equally called to tell the world about Jesus as is the person living in a formal mission setting. We are called... only to a different arena.

Home and church outreach is a priority and is very important. It is interesting that two persons might start out serving the Lord at the same time. One would go off to some field of endeavour far away from home and the other might stay in the local congregation and work in the local church and community. The one on the mission field comes home in high esteem and great fanfare as he shows pictures of the work and the interesting challenges of his environment. In contrast, the "other brother" that stays home and works his job and quietly serves the local congregation and the people of his community is not looked upon as having an outreach... a full time Christian outreach. His spirituality is not regarded nor is he prayed for by the Body for the job God has called him to do. IT IS IMPORTANT AND A GREAT PRIORITY

TO WORK AT HOME, BE FAITHFUL TO THE CHURCH, GIVE MONEY FOR GOD'S WORK, SEND SUPPORT TO EFFORTS AWAY FROM HOME, TO TEACH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AND TO RAISE UP GODLY CHILDREN WITH PRINCIPLES BASED ON GOD'S WORD. We can never take our local fellow-Christian for granted. It should be our priority not to do so. He, too, has a vision. He, too, is working for the future of Christ's Church. We need to support each other. We need to give encouragement to sisters who are working to maintain and manage Godly environments in which children may live and grow.

The real seeds for growth, maturity, wisdom and insight are all around us and we are challenged to bring out these qualities and allow a revival to occur in our local congregations. If we have proper priorities, we will have increased confidence. We need confidence among our people who make up the warp-and-woof fabric of our church life.

Confusion breeds confusion. When we raise up youth in instructive and doctrinal confusion, we can expect them to have incorrect priorities. This gives them a mistaken view of the church and its place in the world. Our church will explode with activity and effectiveness once we prioritize our family and youth as the ultimate mission we have. With this kind of understanding and outreach, our church will grow and new converts will be beating a path to our doors. Evangelism is right at our fingertips and we are looking beyond it.

Let our priority be a family-focused church. Let there be involvement from all segments of the laity and leadership. Let us minister in the vineyard around us and we will be blessed with sweet fruit of our labour.

## CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN Brother Len Wertz

It is prophesied in God's Word about the first coming of Christ to earth which has taken place. He has brought a saving gospel for all mankind. He sacrificed His life for our redemption from sin.

According to the prophecies of Jeremiah and Daniel, Jesus' return to earth is sure. Jesus, Himself, told His disciples, "and they shall see the son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Christ said many times that He is coming again. When He ascended into Heaven the angels said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." The Apostle Paul tells that the Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout and shall be unexpected.

His second coming will be to gather His saints to be with Him forever. We are told in the last days perilous times will come. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves... false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,... Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." "When he comes, shall he find faith on earth?"

The day nor the hour will be revealed to any man, not the angels in heaven but the Father only. Jesus gives the warning many times, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Will we be as the wise or foolish virgins? "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

He will come with power and great glory. The whole world must stand before God and His saints to be judged. The books will be opened. The book of life will be opened. Those who are not found in this book will be cast into everlasting punishment. Saints that are found in the book of life shall dwell and reign with the Lord forever. Those who will not take God at His word and those that add new commandments to God's Word or omit and take away some commandments will not enter the eternal city of God.

May we be among those who will appear at the first and best resurrection. May we take the advice of Jesus, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

We are told in God's Word that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils speaking lies in hypocrisy having their conscience seared with a hot iron. According to Bible prophecy the human family to a large extent will be sinful and wicked. There shall be a falling away from the Church. They are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, covetous, proud and blasphemers, children disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy without natural affection, trucebrakers, false accusers.

Christianity will be at a low ebb among the leaders and officials of the Church at His second coming, just as it was at His first coming among the leaders of the Jews and scribes and Pharisees. They bind heavy, grevious burdens upon men's shoulders but do not move them with one of their fingers, doing their work to be seen of men, seeking honour and glory of men. Jesus said, "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them (the saints) that are entering to go in." Many

shall be desperate, wicked and highminded. As it was in the days of Noah the world was filled with violence and the thoughts and imagination of their hearts were evil continually. The fearful unbelieving murderers, whoremongers, scorcers, idolaters and all liars will have their part in the lake of fire.

In the latter days the Christian lights will not shine much and the salt will be losing its savor. The Spirit and Bride invite all to come and accept the way that leads to eternal life. All will depend on the decision we make here as to where we will spend the ceaseless ages of eternity.

Brother J. F. Marks 501 Chambers Rd. York, PA

## THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Regeneration
J. H. Moore

Strictly speaking, regeneration may be designated as the creative act of God, and through the agency of the Holy Spirit, performs its part in the process of conversion. The doctrine of regeneration runs almost parallel with the doctrine of the new birth. There can be no new birth without regeneration, while, on the other hand, regeneration cannot be completed without the new birth.

Regeneration is to generate again, or to make over. It is the inward work of grace in the soul, resulting in a new creature. There are outward processes but regeneration is a work that goes on within. God, through his Word, performs a creative act in the soul. James 1:18 puts it this way: "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth." In I Peter 1:23 we have the same thought presented in a different way: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God."

The term "regeneration" occurs but twice in the New Testament. We first refer to Titus 3:5 where we have this reading: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." This shows that while salvation is of God, still it is accomplished in connection with an agency, here called the "washing of regeneration." The Revised Version (marginal reading) has it "laver of regeneration." It is interesting to note the Syriac rendering of this verse: "Not according to works which we have done, but according to his mercy, he vivified us, by the washing of the new birth, and by the renovation of the Holy Spirit."

The term, "washing of regeneration," evidently refers to the

washing associated with the process of regeneration. This, of course, means baptism. While regeneration is an inward process, it is, by divine appointment, associated with baptism, which Paul calls the washing of regeneration. The man who is completely regenerated, — made over, — made a new creature, — a new man, — must, at the proper place, in the process of regeneration, submit to the ceremonial rite, which God, in his wisdom, has seen proper to associate with his part of the work.

The second use of the term is in Matt. 19:28, where Jesus says, speaking to his disciples: "Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." The term, in this instance, is thought to refer to the period, terminating with the second coming of Christ, in which the work of regeneration is going on in the world, and therefore has no special bearing on the creative act of God in the process of conversion.

The work of regeneration, like the process of conversion, results in the new man in Christ Jesus. Whatever be the difference between conversion and regeneration, the final results are the same. The process proceeds along the same lines, in accomplishing a given result, — the regenerated man.

#### SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 15, 1928 FAITH J. F. Britton

In Heb. 11:7, we have a concrete record of Noah's faith in his God. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house, by the which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Think of a man facing about and undertaking such an enormous task as to build a large boat that is destined to navigate over a lost world, buried in its watery grave. For the plans and the dimensions of that stupendous boat, see Gen. 6:13-22.

As faith seems to be the cardinal and actuating principle in the constructing and building of that wonderful ark or boat, the question is, what is faith? "Faith" has been defined as follows: "Faith" is the principle or cause of action, and action is the development or result of faith. Faith comes by hearing, and is a mental act, and in its abstract sense, or form, is inactive or dead. (James 2:19.) Faith in its concrete sense moves to action.

In our subject, we have a wonderful object lesson of Noah cooperating with God. God plans and dictates, and Noah does the executing. And so, the most marvelous naval prodigy was achieved, which has never been equaled or exceeded by human skill and genius. So then, the ark was a work of faith; for the Scripture says it was built "by faith," and obedience to God's word. That ark or boat made only one voyage, but it landed its passengers and cargo safely upon the shores of a new world, so to speak.

The contract should be noted between the boat which Noah built and the "Titanic," which was built by the world's best mechanical skill and genius. The "Titanic" only made one voyage and failed to reach her expected destination, and buried over fifteen hundred of her passengers and all her cargo, pride, and glory in a watery grave.

The ark was built to fulfill the purpose of God. The "Titanic" was built to satisfy the pride of man and the vain glory of life. The Ark was a "figure" of the Salvation that has since been accomplished through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. (I Pet. 3:21.) The "Titanic" was a figure of the greatness of the ability, energy and genius of man. The ark is the Christian's life boat. The "Titanic" was man's death boat. The great vessel, in all her human glory and genius, while rushing on in her pride and boasted strength, very suddenly collided with an iceberg, which spelled death to many lives, and a loss of over ten million dollars which had been invested in her.

Like the "Titanic," the modern church is rushing ahead at high speed, in quest of vain glory and popularity. It should be noted that the iceberg did not rush upon the "Titanic" and crush a hole in her side, because the iceberg was scarcely moving. It was its tremendous size, and the enormous weight, and the momentous speed with which it was plunging through the mighty deep, so when it came in contact with the iceberg the "Titanic" just simply bursted itself open, and went to the bottom of the sea. After the "Titanic" had collided with the iceberg, she did not immediately sink. There was a period of several hours which afforded opportunity for escape by means of the lifeboats. From this feature of the case we can draw lessons of the greatest importance to the modern church. The collision had inflicted a death wound. The great vessel was doomed. But many of the passengers, like many of the members of a modern church, were so incredulous and conceited within themselves that they did not care to be humiliated by taking to the lifeboats. But thought there would be some other way. But, alas, there was no other way.

Noah acted quite differently, for we read that when "warned of God he built an ark." Noah was truly wise, for it is true wisdom to give head to God's warnings. The men of Noah's day no doubt thought themselves wise, as our wiseacres do today. They thought old Noah had become fanatic, and unbalanced to his mind. But he proved to be the only wise man of that time.

So the preaching of "Christ crucified" as the savior of sinners seems to be very "foolish" and "weak," nevertheless the "foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men: and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty", — "That no flesh should glory in his presence." Therefore, God is calling through his word to the modern church, saying "Now is the day of salvation." And again, "The Holy Ghost saith, TODAY if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart." The voice has been calling to all who realize their unsafe condition, saying "Come unto me." But, alas, that voice, which is now speaking in grace and mercy, will soon be heard speaking in judgment: and the word will no longer be "Come unto me," but "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

How this reminds us of the end foretold of "that great city Babylon," which in another type of the modern church in her pride, wealth and conceited wisdom. "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory, and he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon, the great, is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit. and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." (Rev. 18:1-2.) An awful arraignment, indeed. And in verse 4 we read: "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." This is a very earnest and urgent call to "escape for thy life: look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed." (Gen. 19:17.) It should be noted, that this call has under consideration life and death, and when God "warned" Noah "of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house," Noah verified his faith by his obedience. "And Noah did according unto all that the Lord commanded him." (Gen. 7:5.)

Thus he became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Hence the psychological question is, What do you expect to gain, dear reader, by clinging to a church that has collapsed in her Bible faith and practice? The poet's resolution is a good one, and is applicable to every one that is halting between two opinions:

"I can but perish if I go, I am resolved to try, For if I stay away I know I must forever die."

#### **NEWS ITEMS**

#### MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Bro. Jan L. Heisey is P.O. Box 598, Collins, Mississippi 39428-0598

#### DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

"Revive us again; fill each heart with thy love, May each soul be rekindled with fire from above."

The Lord willing, the Dallas Center, Iowa Congregation is planning a two week revival meeting August 14-28. Elder Edward Johnson, Wauseon, Ohio is to be our evangelist.

Services begin Sunday morning at 9:30, Sunday evening at 7:00 and each week night at 7:45. All day meetings are planned August 27 and 28 with services beginning at 10:45 Saturday morning and Lovefeast services that evening.

Come and worship with us.

Sister Becky Funk, Cor.

#### SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation's revival will be held August 19-28, 1988. Lovefeast will be held on the 27th and dinner on the grounds will be served on the 28th. The visiting minister will be Bro. Paul Hartz from Palmyra, Pennsylvania.

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Sister Jennifer Snyder, Cor.



An aged sinner said, "When I was young, I said, 'I cannot give up the world now, but will when I have passed the meridian of life; then I shall be ready to attend to the concerns of my soul.' But here I am an old man. I feel no disposition to enter upon the work of salvation. In looking back, I often feel as if I would give worlds if I could be placed where I was when I was twenty years old. There were not half so many difficulties in my path then as there are now."

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1988

August 7 - Jacob's Dream and Vow - Genesis 28:10-32.

- 1. List the five promises God gave Jacob in verse 15.
- 2. What was Jacob's response to God's promise? verse 20-22.

August 14 - Jacob and Rachel; Laban and Leah - Gen. 29:1-35 (Gen. 30:1-43)

- 1. How was Jacob received by Laban's House? verse 12-13.
- 2. How much importance should we place on our children's names?

August 21 - Jacob Leaves Laban - Genesis 31:1-35.

- 1. What basic problem caused the dissension between Laban and Jacob's family? verse 1-9.
- 2. How many gods did Laban serve? verse 30.

August 28 - Jacob Wrestles With the Angel - Genesis 32:1-32.

- 1. Why was Jacob afraid to meet Esau?
- 2. Why did the angel wrestle with Jacob? verse 24.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1988

August 7 - Naaman - II Kings 5:1-27, Luke 4:27.

- 1. What was the key to Naaman's healing? verse 13.
- 2. Who "received" Naaman's leprosy? verse 27.

August 14 - Headship - I Cor. 11:1-15.

- 1. Why is headship important in the Church?
- 2. Sisters, is the sign on your head a true picture of the attitude of your heart?

August 21 - Almost Persuaded - Acts 26:1-29.

- 1. Who was almost persuaded? verse 28.
- 2. Will "almost" be the epithet of your life?

August 28 - Divine Grace - Ps. 84:9-12, I Cor. 3:10-14, II Cor. 1:12, Eph. 2:1-10.

- 1. Define the grace of God.
- 2. Can we abuse God's grace? Rom. 6:1-6.

Paul Stump 10340 N. Diamond Mill Union. OH 45322

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

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**AUGUST 1, 1988** 

NO. 15

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all Scriptural in practice.

the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

## AS MANY AS I LOVE

Often the clouds of deepest woe So sweet a message bear, Dark tho' they seem, 't were hard to find A frown of anger there.

Kind, loving is the hand that strikes, However keen the smart. If sorrow's discipline can chase One evil from the heart.

He was a man of sorrows - he Who loved and saved us thus: And shall the world, that frowned on him. Wear only smiles for us?

No; we must follow in the path Our Lord and Savior run: We must not find a resting place Where he we love had none.

- Unknown

#### **GETTING IN SHAPE**

Recently people have shown an increased interest in good health and nutrition. This has prompted a greater interest in exercise and diet. A healthy body requires a sensible diet and exercise.

Living in an age of convenience, people have become flabby. Consequently they are prone to all manner of diseases. As people get away from manual labor they lose muscle tone and are unable to burn their calories. The American diet contains too much sugar, salt and cholestrol. Most of the convenience foods give extra calories without any nutritional value. Fast food restaurants and instant foods are among the worst offenders. Today few grow and put up their own food so they depend upon the commercial foods heavily laced with chemicals, sodium and sugar. The beverages —whether soft or hard drinks — consumed by most people also help break down their health.

The habits men have acquired in pursuit of pleasure have been ruinous to their well-being. Alcohol, tobacco and drugs have ruined men not only through the calories and chemicals but also through the cumulative effect these drugs have had on the heart, lungs, brain and other organs.

Many have become aware of the problems associated with a modern lifestyle, therefore they have become interested in fad diets that usually do more harm than good. Others have invested heavily in exercise equipment or membership in health clubs. Often immodest attire is connected with this interest in exercise. Many make a start at reducing and getting in shape but give up when the pounds do not disappear fast enough.

## THE BIBLE MONITOR

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Getting in shape physically demands a consistent effort. A person wishing to lose weight cannot diet a few days then indulge in sweets and fats and hope to be successful. One trying to get in shape cannot exercise a day or two then never exercise again and hope he will become slim and trim. A continual effort is needed; a fitful effort will not produce the desired results. The end result will reflect the effort put into it. Again the truth concerning reaping what has been sown is confirmed.

This is the effort required for being in shape physically. The Apostle Paul reminds Timothy that compared to Spiritual health, the physical is not very profitable. Although we must take good care of the body, God has created for us, we must realize that our Spiritual well-being is more important.

There are parallels between physical and Spiritual well-being. The consistency needed for physical well-being is also needed for Spiritual health. The determination needed to avoid unhealthful foods and to keep at exercise when it is not convenient, is needed in Spiritual growth and development.

Determination is needed to avoid those ideas, activities and objects which will harm us just as fat and sweet foods have to be avoided to be healthy. We live in a time when many are willing to accept Jesus as their Saviour but few will accept Him as Lord. When He is Lord of a life there are many things commonly enjoyed by the world that cannot be used by the Christian. When He is Lord, the Christian will avoid all appearance of evil as well as evil itself. He does not become Lord without invitation. So determination is needed to bring lives into conformity to His Will. This avoidance of the harmful is like the need to avoid certain foods to be healthy.

The healthy Christian life is not only an avoidance of what is evil, it is also exercise in the good and necessary things. There are many positive commands that the determined Christian must keep. These commands are the Christian's exercise. As he does them over and over, his faith and service are increased. The more he participates in the services and ordinances of the Church he is made stronger. It takes a great effort especially at first just like beginning to do physical exercises. Often there is opposition to overcome so the effort demanded is doubled. The man who consistently exercises grows stronger and is able to not only help himself but others as well.

Are you in shape? Are you avoiding the harmful foods? Are you exercising? Are you in shape Spiritually as well?

### CHRISTIAN AMERICA IS SPIRITUALLY ADRIFT

Part 2

We are living in a day of myths. A myth is a fictitious, imaginary false teaching. As examples, I will refer to several.

Many people, including teachers and preachers do not believe in the virgin birth and divinity of Christ and are influencing many by such false teaching.

Another being widely taught and believed in is that God is so merciful and full of love that He would not punish anyone. Compare that kind of teaching to Christ's teaching. Matt. 13:49-50, "So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them (the wicked) into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Another myth teaches that life began blindly. The doctrine of evolution is entrenched in our public schools, at the same time that the reading of the Bible is prohibited. The Bible nowhere states or hints that man evolved from a lower animal species. The Bible definitely states that "God created (made out of nothing) man in His own image." How defaming that is of God to presume His highest creation was a result of evolution.

Another myth sweeping our land, that is being taught, but is false, is that we can have morality without religion. The two can never be separated. The very basis of morality is the existence of God.

Today we are living under the premise that whatever is legal, is moral. In 1973 the Supreme Court of this United States abolished the abortion laws of all fifty states. At the same time they legalized abortion on demand. Under the law of free press, pornography is rampant to the offense of many people. Because pornography and abortion are legal, that does not make them moral.

There is a lack of censorship of what is being shown on television and what is printed in our newspapers and periodicals. The publishers are in it for the money. The public is hungry for smut. They do not want Spiritual food. One editor admitted that the only religious news that the public likes to hear and the press likes to print are scandals. Thinking Christian people have heard too many such scandals already originating among television ministers.

It is urged and permissible that sex be taught in many of our school systems. At the same time and in the same schools they are not permitted to read the Bible. Newspaper columist George Will very aptly wrote, "And it is by now a scandal beyond irony that thanks to the litigation of "civil liberties," fanatics and pornographers enjoy protection, while first graders in a NATIVITY

play are said to violate the first amendment."

One year ago, Angela Kaye Guidry, a straight "A" student from Moss Bluff, Louisiana wanted to include her personal Christian testimony in her valedictory address. As a Christian and member of the Moss Bluff First Baptist Church, her fellow students admired her. They knew that she held strong moral convictions. Angle did not approve of or go along with a lot of the things students did off campus, but she was not stuck up, either. The school counselor read her address before she was to give it at commencement. She did not approve of it and asked Angie to change it. respectfully replied, "I will not change it." The school counselor insisted. Angie told her she had prayed about the matter and felt led not to change a word. The counselor told Angie that she was no more of a Christian than anyone else. Angie said, "I will not change my speech and that's it." Standing true to her conviction. she was denied the privilege of giving the valedictory address. I know of similar instances where students were conscientious and stood for the principles of right.

She obeyed the scriptures as we all should, as admonished by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:13, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

> To be continued Elder Paul R. Myers 5005 Higbee Ave., N.W. Canton, Ohio 44718

## **REMINISCING - ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1988**

What a blessing it was to be privileged to attend Annual Conference. I feel many times we are not thankful enough to God for our blessings that we receive from day to day.

It was thrilling to see those whom we have learned to know and love and greet each with a kiss or a handshake of love.

I was made to think of all the sermons we heard and how accountable we are to God. Ecc. 5:1 says, "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God and be more ready to hear than to give the sacrifice to fools..."

Some exhortations given:

- Seek God's wisdom and God's guidance in His will.
- A good worker in the church could be an inspiration to others or to the preacher.
- Faithfulness is spiritual success.
- Are we robbing God? Use the Lord's time and money wisely.

- We should be clothed with humility.
- Humility starts when we die to self. Humility is a good way.
- A man is judged by the company he keeps.
- Spend time with God so that we can work out our own salvation in fear and trembling.
- God's forgiveness is UNLIMITED!
- The result of abiding is fruit bearing.
- Have good motives; set your standards high.
- To keep your integrity, you need to run, say "no", pray, fast, keep pure and stay with the Lord. Continue to be chaste virgins for Christ.
- We need to be building in the power and might of His spirit upon the good foundation.
- To be church builders, we need to KNOW Jesus, GROW in God's word, and GLOW for Jesus Christ.
- Encourage one another to do good. Think positive.
- The word is the final authority in our lives.
- Let us find the wells of spiritual vitality.
- Make commitments and keep them.
- God needs men who have their focus on Jesus Christ.
- To live an effective Christian life, we have to live for God's glory in our present time of living. Let us be diligent to come before winter.
- Time, we cannot buy it, nor stop it; the earth still turns and GOD is on the throne.
- Without holiness, we cannot see the Lord.
- Woe to them that are at ease in Zion!
- Take God at His word and humbly submit to His will and way.
- Are you looking for the fulness of God in your life? We need to answer to every test in our lives. Don't fail the test!
- Choose you this day whom you will serve.
- Write the law of God in our hearts.
- What decision will we make? The day of the Lord is near.
- Do we radiate the virtues of faith in our life?

For those of us who are only privileged to attend conference about every three or four years, it was a blessing to be there and drink in the truths of God's word. God's name be praised and may God continue to lead our Brethren as they preach the Word from time to time.

In Christian Love, Sister Shirley Frick

#### ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"organization"

We are living in a day when it is not very popular to talk about "organization." It seems right to most Christians of our day to do whatever is "right in their own eyes" without anyone telling them what they should do and setting down proper policy for the smooth functioning of the Body.

First of all, let me state emphatically, that EFFECTIVE ORGAN-IZATION AND STRUCTURE IS IMPORTANT TO THE CHURCH. There needs to be machinery to effectively carry out the work and eliminate factors that hinder the Biblical fulfilling of Christ's teachings.

First of all, there must be a hierarchy of authority. There is the necessity of ordaining Elders, Ministers, Deacons, and so forth to carry out the God ordained work of the Church. If there are poorly defined rules here and in other areas, we see an ambiguity in the way things take place and responsibilities seem just to overlap and lose identity. God has dictated the machinery to be effective in administration in His Word. We do not need to "re-do" the machinery, we just need to maintain it in a well oiled fashion and make minor adjustments that would allow for the work of the Church to flow more effectively.

The Bible gives the job descriptions. It defines the training needed and gives the criteria for evaluation of those who are involved. The vision of the organization should be totally centered on the main thrust of the church which is to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Along with organization, communication is vital in implementing the dictates of the organization. Members must know church policy and must be informed of its direct Scriptural backing. To know it is going to require not only study but effective, loving teaching and communication. And communication is definitely a problem today, not only in the church but in many avenues of life. We sometimes feel "out of touch" because we are not constantly being taught and admonished in love. We too many times see ourselves as strictly individuals and not a part of the Body-family of members. We become detached in some ways if the church organization is not confirmed to us and we tend to react by "doing our own thing."

Could it be that at most levels of Christ's Church today, we are not communicating. From the eldership all the way down to the grass roots, we are challenged to work hard to improve our sense of belonging and unity and camaraderie among us. We need more prayer for the leadership and for each other. I have experienced

the great encouragement of someone telling me that they are "prayerfully supporting me" and this verbal contact is important and necessary. Mutual love should flow verbally. This motivates growth and maturity.

I praise God for the Bible teaching of a theocratic democracy for church government. It gives us all the opportunity to give input to the work of the church and allows for the Spirit to move within the entire Body to perform His good work in us. And, we must constantly avail ourselves of the leading of the Holy Spirit in all activity of the organization. This type of church government does not allow an aloof leadership to dictate their feelings and rules to the entire group. It does away with the "ivory tower." It allows greater communication and trust... and ultimately a forward-moving progress of the work.

Three-way communication is a must... leadership - laity - God. Our lines of information must flow continually and that ultimate instruction, of course, is God's Word to us. I believe this is an area where we would desire constant improvement and I encourage you to be a part of that positive force.

In business, organization and communication are a must. They are a part of sound management. The church, likewise, will function most smoothly as we employ these skills and cultivate them.

You need not be fearful of a God centered organization. God is a God of the orderly. His creation and His sustaining of life is methodic and rhythmic. His teachings are clear and wholesome. Ultimately, His system will climax in the total perfection of eternal life.

Let's allow the channels of communication and good-will to remain open and let us pray that our "organization" meets the desire and criteria of God and His Word. If we have questions about it, let's follow the given channels for correction that the church has given to us. Let us be unified, responsive, effective in the work. Yes, we are each one individuals, but we are ONE BODY... ONE IN THE LORD... and we need to listen, to trust, to work toward perfection.

Brother Len Wertz

#### THIS IS THE WAY

Isaiah 30:21 "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

If there was ever a time in the earthly church that we need to hear these words of Isaiah, given by the Holy Spirit, it is today. There

are some positive and some negative truths to be found in this verse of scripture. We pray that God, through the Holy Spirit, will guide our thoughts as we seek to share some thoughts on this verse.

First of all let us look at the positive truths to be found in this verse. We have a sure word from the Lord. It is found in the Holy Scriptures. God has not left us to our own imaginations and desires. As the poet John Burton so well described it in his song, "Holy Bible, Book Divine."

Holy Bible, book divine, Precious treasures, thou art mine; Mine to tell me whence I came; Mine to teach me what I am.

We also have a sure example given unto us. In John 14:6 Jesus Christ assured us, "... I am the way, the truth, and the life:..." Along with the Apostle Paul we can say, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." I Cor. 11:1.

In addition to these two glorious truths we have been given the Holy Spirit to live within us and guide our way. In Isaiah's time the gift of the Holy Spirit was not yet given. Thus the prophet had to say, "thine ears shall hear a word behind thee." But in John 14:16-17 we find the wonderful promise, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." We know that this great promise was fulfilled in Acts. 2.

We wish we could stop right here and rejoice in these wonderful truths. But we find an earlier portion of this chapter challenging our heart. In verses 9 to 11, the prophet says to the nation Israel, "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not: and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us." This sounds to us like a description of much of the modern earthly church. Many are saying that under the New Testament we have no "law of the Lord." While it is certainly true that we are not under the Law but under Grace, the New Testament is filled with God's commandments and teachings. The greater part of the New Testament writings are warnings against failing to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and the apostles.

Many within the earthly church are saying we must close our eyes to sin. "Judge not" has become the final and only word

accepted by them. While the world comes not only into the homes of those professing to be God's children but has now invaded many of the meetinghouses we are encouraged to, "See not." "Speak unto us smooth things" sounds exactly like the modern "emphasize the positive things and stay away from the negative." Many are encouraging, "Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path." In modern language this comes out, "Don't get hung up on tradition, be open to doing things in a new way." But the greatest tragedy of all is when they say, "cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us." Two modern arguments come to mind. "Jesus Christ is only a way to Heaven, not the only way." Along with, "The scriptures were for Paul's day and we are not bound by all the New Testament teachings."

Our opening verse centers on another danger in our day. It says, "when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." There are voices on "the right" and "the left" that are calling us to compromise our faith. "The right" says that Communism is the enemy of the Church and we must be willing to take human life to stop this evil. At the same time those on "the left" are trying to convince the government that they should not fight this evil. The Holy Word teaches us that we are to fight all the enemies of Truth with the Sword of the Spirit (The Holy Bible) but that worldly government has the right to defend itself by use of the sword. By the same token those on "the right" are calling for capital punishment while those on "the left" are opposing it. This is not a church issue, although those on "the right" are closer to what Romans 13:4 teaches.

Women are being voted into places of leadership in complete disregard of I Timothy 2:12. False teachings and compromise are being given places of honor while the true Way is being cast into the dust. This is truly a sad day for the earthly church. In the midst of all this may we have the courage to follow, "This is the way, walk ye in it."

In spite of all the evil in the earthly church, sinners still cannot use this as an excuse. The blood of Jesus Christ is still the way to Heaven. If you have not accepted the true Way, the Lord Jesus Christ, to guide you to the glories of Heaven we invite you to do so today. If you refuse the offer to be saved and baptized your eternal home will be with those who profess but do not possess or have fallen from the way, eternal punishment in Hell, if they do not repent.

James M. Hite 816 E. Birch St. Palmyra, PA 17078

#### SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 1, 1928 COMMUNION D. W. Hostetler

Of all the services incorporated in the economy of grace, there is no service that brings the worshiper so close to Jesus as does the communion. Hence it is very important that the communicant comes to the Lord's table as nearly perfect as is possible. I think this is the primary purpose of the preceding service — the self-examination, the Supper, feet washing. To dismiss all these commands is very dangerous, for everyone that eateth unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

For these reasons, let us look into the matter of close communion. Webster defines communion as "a body of Christians having one common faith and discipline"; "a common, accepted idea of communion is that it means common union".

There is great danger of committing the awful sin of eating and drinking damnation to ourselves, Paul teaches plainly. To admit believers in all kinds of doctrines to the communion table is out of the question.

Now in open communion it is generally understood that anyone who is in good standing in his own church is eligible as a communicant. The writer was once present at a service where the minister gave the invitation to the altar to receive the communion. A lady who did not belong to any church went to the altar and received the communion. A man may commit a sin that justifies his church in disfellowshiping him; he unites with another church, is taken in full fellowship and held in good standing. He may then return to his former church the next Sunday morning and receive the communion from the minister. How could he be good enough to commune with his former fellow-brethren and not be good enough to be held in good fellowship with them? The idea is pure sacrilege.

Now it is true that Scriptural fellowship and union is the foundation for the necessary qualifications of communion. They are embraced in the doctrine or law of church membership, union, peace, and love among her members. (I Cor. 1:10, Matt. 5:23, I John 3:14-16.)

Now in complying with the law of church membership, we are baptized by the one doctrine immersion, and the one spirit, into the one body which implies, first, unity of faith, second, unity of doctrine, third, unity of spirit, and fourth, unity of love. All of these

go to make communion possible. Church membership is first, then communion, and if we want the blessings of communion we must approach it in the regular way, by complying with the law of church membership. Open communion disarms the church of all authority to set the standard of fitness for communion. This will place the individual above the church while Christ placed the church over the individual. It also robs the church of the right to self-protection and admits all forms of baptism. It admits carnal warfare, brother going to law with brother, secret oath-bound societies, worldly amusements, pleasures, and dress. Since there is such a wide difference in teaching of doctrine, faith, and practice of the churches, there surely can be no open communion when communion is the standard of test of Christian union.

The church has always taught that in communion, there must be union of faith, peace, love, and mind. All these ideas have been strongly stressed in the tracts that have been written by some of our older brethren. Note I. J. Rosenberger's comment in tract number 273: "To sit together at the Lord's table indicates a common union. But if there is no union there can be no communion." This is true; therefore, the nearer we shape our lives after the pattern of the New Testament the deeper we can drink from the great fountain of life, Jesus Christ.

Now the great blessing contained in the communion of the body and blood of Jesus Christ is indeed wonderful. In I Cor. 10:16 we read: "The cup of blessing which we bless is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" Paul put it in the form of a question which is equivalent to saying that it is the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

John 6:53-56: "Then Jesus said unto them, verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whosoever eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh and he that drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me and I in him."

There are four things here to which I shall call the reader's attention. First, unless we eat of Christ's body and drink his blood we have no life; second, in thus eating and drinking we have the promise of being raised by Him; third, these emblems are true — eating and drinking bring life; and fourth, in thus eating and drinking we are in Christ and he in us. All this is, provided that we eat and drink worthily; hence Paul's teaching as to the importance of self-examination. In the upper room when Jesus said, "One of

you shall betray me" there began a most searching self-examination, when the apostles said, "Is it I?"

When we examine ourselves, no doubt we find ourselves unworthy. It is then we are getting to the right place and then we will make the thing right that makes us unworthy. We come to God and ask him to make us worthy.

In getting ready for communion, there are several things to be considered, first, matters between the individual and God. In order to commune with God we must be in harmony with his Gospel as it applies to the regulation of life. Second, matters between individuals. Troubles between members must be adjusted so they can take communion worthily. Again, there are matters between members and outsiders. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you. live peaceably with all men." Romans 12:18. Note the words "if it be possible." That means that there must be effort on our part. Before there is union there must be peace with God and Christ, peace with fellow brethren, and if possible, peace with all other men. remember how the old brethren emphasized these things when I was a boy, especially in examination services. They gave admonitions and somehow these things have stayed with me. I believe that if we have the faith of our fathers, the love for each other they had, and the spirit that characterized them, we can enjoy the same fellowship they enjoyed.

I give you a picture of an old-time communion. They usually lasted two days. We met at ten and had a sermon, then a social meal, then at two another sermon. These sermons came from the hearts of men that were filled with the spirit of the living God. At about 4 o'clock we met for examination service. One, two and often three brethren would talk. These sermons were directed to the place where we were living. In the evening, we were called together to the Lord's table by singing, to engage in the ordinances of the house of God. The next morning about sunrise we would meet at the church for morning worship. Next we had breakfast. As soon after as the audience room could be arranged, each minister gave a short talk. These were called farewell addresses and they were appreciated, for they were helpful and instructive. Brethren, give me those days and you may have the rest.

#### THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

JUSTIFICATION

J. H. Moore

Justification may be defined as the gracious act of God, whereby he pardons and accepts of sinners on the ground of the righteousness of Christ, who, by his death, atoned for sin. It is an act of God in which one is declared guiltless or acquitted. The justified man is one who is absolved from any and all guilt, and stands before God and the world as a free man.

While justification, as a free act, is ascribed to God, "it is God that justifieth" (Rom. 8:32); and while it is by faith, it must be borne in mind that it is not by faith alone. The most misleading doctrine in Christendom is the doctrine which teaches that man is justified by faith, independent of the duties which, by divine appointment, have been associated with faith. It is the acceptance of this doctrine that has led to the discarding of so many of the plain commandments presented in the teachings of Christ and the apostles. There is no greater test of faithfulness than obedience, and the man who believes and obeys is the man who is in a justified state.

True, Abraham was justified by faith, but James 2:22 says, "Faith wrought with works, and by works was faith made perfect." In verse 21 he would go even farther in affirming that Abraham was justified by works, when he had offered up his son Isaac on the altar. He would have both faith and obedience figure in justification. In fact, this is the real teaching of the New Testament, respecting justification. In the light of the teaching of Christ and the apostles, there is no such a thing as justification by faith alone. The faith that leads to justification must invariably be accompanied by the obedience that has been associated with faith. The absence of this obedience renders faith ineffective. The man who firmly believes that Jesus is the Christ, and that he brought into the world a saving Gospel, cannot claim justification on the ground of mere belief. His faith prepares him for the further steps leading up to justification, and it is only after he has taken these steps that he can consistently lay claim to the justification that is by faith. obedience his faith is made perfect, and then it is that the promise becomes his. One reaches the state of justification through a process, and faith is only one of the several steps in that process.

## OBITUARY

#### PAUL UNRUH

Bro. Paul R. Unruh was born July 29, 1913 at Las Animas, Colorado. He passed from this life June 23, 1988 at the age of seventy four years, ten months and twenty five days.

His early life was spent in McPherson, Kansas. He was married to Myrtle Siemens, July 29, 1934. Paul and Myrtle had three sons: Dennis of Winton, California; Ronald of Fresno, California and Loren of Atwater, California, also five grandchildren and one greatgrandson. One brother, Wesley Unruh and one sister, Della Decker, of Galva, Kansas.

For fifteen years, before retirement in 1975, Paul worked for the Merced County Hospital.

Paul and Myrtle were members of the Old Mennonite Church for thirty years. In 1975 they affiliated with the Dunkard Brethren Church at Modesto, California where they worshipped and remained faithful to their Lord.

Funeral Services were held June 27, 1988 at Ivers and Alcorn Funeral Chapel, Atwater, California. Elders Rudy Cover, Hayes Reed and Paul Byfield officiated. Bro. Mike Wray officiated at the interment at the Winton District Cemetery.

#### **NEWS ITEMS**

#### WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation enjoyed Lovefeast on May 1, 1988 with the following ministers bringing us the Word: Emmert Shelley, Virgil Leatherman, Ronald Marks, Joshua Rice, David Aungst and John Peffer, who officiated in the evening. We thank these Brethren for their efforts.

The Lord willing, we are looking forward to revival meetings, September 4 to 11, 1988 with Elder Virgil Leatherman, Walnut Grove, Maryland as the evangelist. We invite all who can to come and worship with us.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

### PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

Greetings to you, our Christian friends across the Brotherhood! As we look forward to a series of Revival Meetings, September 2-11, 1988, we request your prayers. We would be happy to have you with us at that time. Bro. Fred Pifer has consented to be our speaker for the ten-day meeting.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Doris Jamison from Quinter, Kansas, and two members from the Newberg, Oregon Congregation joined us as we experienced a blessed Lovefeast occasion at the end of April.

While our hearts are made sad in the loss of two dear brethren recently, we are reminded that God still brings the miracle of renewed life. Gary Fleener, Rhea Flora and Coryna Wray were baptized on Sunday following our Lovefeast.

Some of you have requested the names of our new members. Bob Adrian was baptized, re-dedicating his life to the Lord's service. Marcus Wray, Jennifer and Susan Wurm, Steven and Susan Beachler, Gary and Rachel Dutter, Dean and Anna Lee Flora and Rodney and Phyllis Renicker were accepted into our fellowship since the first of the year.

Together may we remain faithful to the cause of the Kingdom.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

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## **BIBLE MONITOR**

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NO. 16

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

#### GOD OF OUR FATHERS

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand Leads forth in beauty all the starry band Of shining worlds in splendor thro' the skies, Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past, In this free land by Thee our lot is cast; Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide and Stay, Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms from deadly pestilence, Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense; Thy true religion in our hearts increase, Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way, Lead us from night to never-ending day; Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, And glory, laud and praise be ever Thine.

- Daniel C. Roberts

#### THE VALUE OF HISTORY

"Why study history?" is a question we often hear. "It is just a bunch of names, dates, places and events." "It has no relevance to our everyday lives." These and similar statements are often made. History is more than a collection of unconnected facts strung together. The specifics of history places each event so its relevance to today can be seen. History discloses the causes of situations that exist today. Events of today do not just happen there are underlying reasons and connections with the past. A single event is not an orphan but a child of the past.

The relation of present events to past events shows the hand of God in the affairs of men. The order that history discloses reveals God's direction not only in great newsworthy world events but also in the everyday lives of individuals.

History is more than a nostalgia for antiques and a yearning for the good old days. The objects of the past may be of interest and value in showing us how equipment has developed over the years. They may show us the extent of conveniences in our lives unknown to our ancestors. While we may learn some important lessons from the past we cannot relive the past. Often nostalgia colors the past to make it appear brighter than what it really was. Either because we look at it through the memory of the child or because we fear the present and future we make the past a pristine, perfect time. We should be living in the present and building for the future, basing our work upon the lessons taught us by the past. It is a scientific axiom that like conditions produce like results. If we wish to have in the future conditions that we sense were in the past we

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must reproduce the same conditions. Without effort, drift will not bring about the conditions we desire.

Moses in Deuteronomy 32 gives a history lesson concerning spiritual conditions. At the close of the journey through the barren desert before the children of Israel entered into the Promised Land, Moses recounts the history of their journey. He does this that they may learn from it and go forward as the faithful children of God.

"Remember they days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee'; thy elders, and they will tell thee." Verse 7. Moses calls on them to recall their own past experiences. Also they were to seek to know of events before their own time by asking those older than themselves or by seeking the records of old through the elders or leaders of the people.

They were first to consider God and His dealing with their people. They were to realize how God had dealt and worked with their ancestors from the Creation until their own time. They were to realize the great goodness of God. If we consider the past without relating it to the goodness of God we will miss the point of history. History is another testimony of God's existence and part in men's affairs. To leave God out of history is to miss the point of history.

The response of the forefathers to God gives us the lesson of history. When they were faithful God was able to use them and to accomplish great things. Whether we consider the events of Moses' leadership of the people or the founding and growth of our own country or the lives of our Spiritual forefathers, they all show us that the faithful service of God will produce great events in individual and national lives.

History also teaches consequences. There is a price to pay when God and His Word are ignored and disobeyed. When people develop habits that are destructive of physical, mental, moral and Spiritual health they will suffer the consequences. Moses could point out the consequences suffered along the desert journey when various ones rose in opposition to God's leaders and laws.

Moses' final words were, "Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whether ye go over Jordan to possess it." Verses 46-47.

These words are applicable to us as a nation but even more so as a Church. As Christians we must know the lessons of history that we might serve God in the way pleasing to Him.

Are you studying history? Are you applying its lessons to your life and to the church's life? Be a good student that you may be an obedient child of God.

#### IF AT FIRST

Remember the old saying, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again"? It is offered as encouragement, to spark the incentive to try once more. We may fail even when we do our best, but it is certain we can't succeed if we give up. After we have failed, maybe many times, and then we finally succeed, it brings a special joy to our hearts. Constant success isn't very satisfying or inspiring, but success after failure is very inspiring.

In the Christian walk, we need encouragement also. It is even more important for us to keep trying, even though we fail at times. Jesus is always standing by to encourage us, to provide the extra boost to help us keep going. We need to encourage each other to reach out to Jesus, to accept His strength. We can keep trying, and often keep failing on our own, but Jesus won't Human strength fails, but Jesus never fails. His strength is always available.

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again" should be "If at first you don't succeed, try Jesus again!" Try Jesus, not once, not twice or three times, but every time. Because we are human, we do fail. We mess things up even when we want most to succeed. We need help that only Jesus can provide. A baby falls many times before learning to walk properly and we are alot like that in the Christian walk. How many times we fall isn't as important as how often we get up and go on — with Jesus.

If at first you don't succeed, ask for forgiveness. Don't wait until you think you deserve it, or that your good finally outweighs the bad and therefore God can not receive you. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9. This cleansing is not just for our past sins, or just for the first mistake we make after we've received Jesus' cleansing. It is a present tense, day-to-day cleansing from all sin, done for us by the Lord. We can't cleanse ourselves or merit forgiveness in any way.

"And when he (Peter) thought thereon, he wept." Mark 14:72. Peter had just done about the worst thing he could think of. He had been so sure he would stand by Jesus no matter what, and now when Jesus needed him most, Peter had denied even knowing Jesus! Worse yet, Peter denied Him three times and even added some foul language for emphasis. In Matt. 26:75, it says Peter wept bitterly. He no doubt thought he was beyond hope, but later he found forgiveness and eventually became a faithful, steadfast servant of the Lord.

When we think about our sins and our helplessness, we may weep bitter tears as Peter did. We may think we're beyond hope, but Jesus has a message of hope for us, too. No matter what we've

done, no matter how low we have fallen, He can save us. "Wherefore he (Jesus) is able also to save them to the uttermost that come to God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:25. Jesus' saving power is not limited by our help-lessness. All He asks is that we come to Him to receive it.

Uttermost means of the highest or greatest possible degree. It is complete and entire, the most that can be done. When we come to God the Father through Christ the Son, He can save us absolutely, entirely, unconditionally, completely. Jesus has taken care of every aspect of salvation, with nothing left to chance. Because Jesus makes intercession for us (pleads our case and reminds God that He has already paid the price of our sins), His saving power continues from the moment we accept it on into Eternity.

If at first we don't succeed in doing God's will, we need to ask His forgiveness, then for strength to do better next time. By asking for forgiveness and acknowledging our need of help, we are opening the door so Jesus can come in and help us. He said, "Without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13. Human strength is soon exhausted, but Jesus' strength is without limit.

The best we can do for ourselves is to reform, but Jesus transforms us. This means He changes our nature, our function and condition, a change which will become very noticeable. Without His transforming power, there can be no victory over sin. We will be defeated time and time again when we attempt to make it without Jesus. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Rom. 12:2. Our lives won't prove a thing until our minds and hearts have been changed.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. THEN will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee." Psa. 51:10-13. Personal cleansing and renewal must always precede service. A new creation, a right spirit within, joy in salvation — all are a testimony that Jesus is living within.

If at first you don't succeed in serving God, check to see if your own heart is right. Peter had a problem and Jesus said to him, "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." Luke 22:32. You can't help others until you've been helped, but with Jesus, you can do things you could never do alone. If at first you don't succeed, try Jesus! Not once or twice, but always!

Sister Fileen Broadwater

#### ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Leadership Role

The Bible is explicit in its teaching that it is blessed and right to desire leadership in the church. It seems that many people do not understand the proper building blocks necessary for the church of the future in giving youth a clear focus with respect to the leadership role. Could this be because our goals and purposes have been somewhat foggy? I would like to forge some guidelines for the future in this discussion which will help you define what is involved in church leadership. A great deal is expected of you and priorities must be set early and thoroughly maintained. Let us put a beaconlight on leadership and see what God is raising us up for and teaching us to do.

In Acts 20, Paul addresses the elders of Ephesus and gives them an outline of their charge. There... principles are set forth for effective leadership. Leaders must: 1. Serve with humility, 2. Preach and teach publicly, 3. Proclaim the WHOLE will and word of God, 4. Guard themselves and the flock, 5. Shepherd the church, 6. Protect against teaching distortions and untruthfulness and 7. Help the weak. Peter adds to this list when he instructs in I Peter 5:1-3: 8. Shepherd the flock with care, 9. Serves as an overseer and is eager about that service and 10. Doesn't lord it over the membership but serves as a quality example. It seems almost simple to leave these principles without greater explanation but as we would look at them in composite, we would understand the following:

- 1. Leaders have great influence for setting the direction of the Church and, thus, we need to use the greatest of prayerful care in their selection. They must proclaim the WHOLE WILL of God.
- 2. They are to provide a "headship" for the Body... or oversee and protect.
- 3. Leaders are to work hard to develop maturity by nurturing the gift(s) of the Holy Spirit.
- 4. They are to see that the truth is taught and practiced... watching for distortions and partial-truths.
- 5. Leaders are influential in coordinating a smooth flow of the church organization. This is part of being a shepherd... and not just a "preacher."
- 6. Finally, leaders must minister to individual needs... to be able to help the weak, to counsel, to serve needs with eagerness.

All of these functional ideals are necessary for elders, ministers and deacons. They make up the scriptural qualifications. (See I Tim. 3; Titus 1). They are practiced to the degree that the leader is

sensitive to each precept and in conjunction with individual personal skills and vision. It would be the desire of our church, with the practice of a plural ministry, that those qualities which are weak or lacking in one individual would be strong in the ministry of the other individual.

There is a great responsibility for church leaders to lead in the determination of church direction, emphasis and priorities. There must be unity of interests and leading of the Spirit. There must be the ability to assess how different aspects of the faith harmonize together for the benefit of the whole church.

In our faith, church polity defines, to some extent, direction setting as seen by the church. The merits of this stated program are great but ideas for nuturing the flock and fulfilling God's purpose for the church must be constantly in the minds of leaders... not just reading the past, but envisioning the future. Being attuned to the voice of God and the movement of the Holy Spirit is a must.

Good leaders will literally provide an umbrella of protection for the church. But let us be reminded that a part of a leaders job in the church is to reprove and correct with the Word of God. This is for the ultimate purpose of building an individual up, encouraging and strengthening someone. It is always to be done with love and compassion.

Let us pray that our leaders will indeed feel the pulse of the church and will have a great sensitivity to the needs and concerns of our members. Pray, as you "desire a good work"... as you prepare for greater usage in the church, that you are developing your life in regard to the principles listed early in this writing. Always remember that a church needs leaders... but leaders also need a church.

Pray for the leaders... that they might be effectively involved in lives so as to listen and not be threatened. Pray that they will grow even in the face of criticism. Pray that the church might be led totally in the light of God's truth. Pray that our leaders may set aside self and personal biases and remain pure. Pray that they might even meet needs that are beyond their personal capability and experience. Have a vision of the church moving forward towards a higher level of spirituality. If we lose our vision... if we lose proper leadership... our people will perish.

Brother Len Wertz

#### 1988 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Saturday P.M.

Bro. Ronald Marks opened. Luke 24:12, 16, 40. We know Jesus is coming again. We must get prepared to meet Him. Let's work and strive for our Home in Heaven.

Bro. Dennis St. John, Phil. 3:9-16. The Church — Reaching, Pressing and Attaining. The Apostle Paul tried to forget some of the things that happened during his life. He thought it better to look ahead. The Apostle Paul ran the race spiritually. Do we lose faith when we are running the race? We want to win the race with Jesus Christ. Let us look into our hearts. Is Satan changing our hearts? Success without faithfulness is lost relationship with Christ. The basic problem of individuals is sin. The wages of sin is death. Let us study the Bible to prepare ourselves to work for the Lord. We need to seek for God's wisdom. We need a depth of conviction and love, for hope in a future church. We need conviction and faithfulness for the Lord. This will make a great success in our lives.

Bro. Rudy Shaffer. Luke 8:4-16, Luke 17:26-30, II Tim. 3:1-5. Do we really love our Lord and Savior as we should? The love of pleasure has become a spiritual disease. We are to think and meditate on the Word of God. We need to be careful and not let Satan creep into our lives. We must use our time consistantly for the Lord. To worship the Lord we must prepare ourselves. We need to give our time to the Lord and serve Him with all our heart. The Lord has told us to redeem the time. We must do all things to the glory of God. There is lots of pleasure seekings. Many times they do not bring honor and glory to the Lord. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. If we do the things that are not pleasing to God we cannot be the temple of God. We need to avoid all the appearance of evil.

Bro. Michael Wray closed. We have a challenge here this afternoon. God wants the church to grow. Let us press on to work for the Lord.

Saturday Evening.

Elder Eldon Mallow opened. I Tim. 6. The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy for his spiritual life. He told Timothy he must live a Godly life. Christ gave His life that we can gain salvation. Godliness is contentment and great gain. The Apostle Paul said, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

Elder Paul Hartz. I Peter 5. Christian Humility. Salvation is through grace. We must be clothed in humility. Pride is the enemy of humility. We are all Brethren and Sisters in Christ. A man is judged by the company he keeps. Jesus was blamed for being a friend of sinners. Where would we be if Jesus wasn't a friend? Jesus taught humility and forgiveness. Jesus said, "Forgive them for they know not what they do" when He was nailed to the cross. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth." When we obey and walk with the Lord we must have an humble heart. God giveth grace to the humble.

Elder Eugene Kauffman closed. Humble is the opposite of pride. Let us be faithful to our Lord and Savior. Godliness with contentment is great gain. We must live faithful to our Lord and Savior. Sunday A.M.

Elder Hayes Reed opened. John 14:1-8. Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus went to Heaven to prepare a place for us. He said, "Where I am there ye may be also."

Elder William Heisey. Ephesians 5:1-17. Redeeming The Time. Christ and His Heavenly Father want us to obey the commandments in the Holy Word. The time is getting away from us. We should use our time here on earth wisely for the Lord. We should not allow the things in our natural life to take all our time, but we must save plenty of time to work for the Lord. We should consider working out our soul salvation first. We need not spend all our time for our physical life. God will help us provide for our physical life if we ask Him. We must walk in wisdom for the Lord. If we lay up treasures in Heaven we will gain our reward when we are called from this world. We are servants of God. We must make full use of the time He has given to us. We must redeem the time. There is a place being enlarged for all the sinful people after this life. God will take care of the righteous people as well as the unrighteous. All of the people who lived according to the will of God will gain that eternal reward. God has said He will redeem all of them who have lived faithful to Him.

Elder Virgil Leatherman. Matthew 18:21-22. Unlimited Forgiveness. We are serving a just and a living God. Forgiveness means to set free. Jesus said on the cross as He looked up towards Heaven, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." If we confess our sins to Jesus He said He will forgive us. Our Heavenly Father has made provision that our sins can be blotted out. If Christ has forgiven us our sins He expects us to forget them. Too often we harbor grievous thoughts against one another too long. That is not a forgiving spirit. We must be willing to confess our sins

to our Heavenly Father and He will forgive and cleanse us from all sins.

Elder Joseph Flora closed. Man shall not live by bread alone. The most important food for us is the Word of God.

To be continued Sister Alice Heisey

#### CHRISTIAN AMERICA IS SPIRITUALLY ADRIFT

Part 3

Another sad and horrible condition exists in America that is sin to the nth degree. I must mention it. Previously, I wrote about abortion.

Besides the thousands of aborted babies, over 4,300 preborn live babies are put to death, every day. The murderers who perform these henious deeds are under the protection of the Supreme court, legalized by their decision in the case of Roe vs Wade.

In earlier days, abortion was very rare, and only resorted to in extreme cases. Today, according to one authority it is used as a convenience, and has become the nation's means of birth control.

Babies bodies have been sold by the bag by abortion mills. They are used in the making of cosmetics and in research. Today, surgeons are plucking tissue from an unborn child and transplanting it into the body of another person, hoping that the healthy tissue will ameliorate medical problems such as diabetes and Parkinson's disease.

Seventy-five percent of all women who have abortions are unmarried. Abortion has become the "mopping up operation" from a breakdown in moral values.

Christian America is not only drifting but is fast cascading to destruction.

The institution of marriage which God ordained is being greatly flaunted. The wedding vow is "until death do us part." Yet, in America nearly half of all marriages end in divorce, and the half of them are because of adultery.

Massage parlors, television, video tapes, nudist camps, houses of prostitution and beer parlors all are contributing to the breakdown of the morals of our nation. Such iniquity greatly diminishes the quality of the home. The home was God's first institution and the church was the second. Many homes today have but one parent. Many boys and girls do not have the benefit of both parents because of divorce or infidelity.

Nobody can calculate the number of divorces, the emotional scars, bondage and guilt that pornography has brought to the

citizens of our land. I am very sure that God will declare judgment against the editors, photographers, printers, distributors, sellers and readers of such filth. Adult book stores are a disgrace to any business community.

There should be enough true Christians in the United States to shower the Attorney General's office with a blizzard of mail in protest against what is allowed to demoralize our country. Only the people of God can halt our slide into the cesspool of Satan, and that is by calling on God in fervent prayer, for His Divine help.

With the increase in the "New Morality" America is becoming a new Sodom. Homosexuality is another sin Satan is saturating the world with. Homosexuality is in no way compatible with Christianity. It destroys the normal family relationships. Its one cause of the incurable disease AIDS.

As a result of committing this sin, it was recorded in the August 12, 1985 issue of TIME MAGAZINE that a twenty-eight year old man, dying of AIDS said, "I am very afraid to die such a young man. I'd like a little more time. I lived in the FAST LANE. If only God will give me a break."

To be continued. Brother Paul R. Myers 5005 Higbee Ave., NW Canton, OH 44718

#### THANK YOU

"Thank you" is so easy to say, yet it means so much to know that the big things and the little things we do for people have been appreciated. It is one way we have of bearing one another's burdens as we are told in Gal. 6:2, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Christ said if we give only a cup of water in His name we will in no wise lose our reward. I think of the ten lepers Christ healed on one occasion but only one seemed to appreciate enough to turn back and say "thank you" to Jesus who responded by saying "but where are the other nine?"

Right now, I want to say "Thank You" dear friends for all the prayers, telephone calls, cards, notes, and letters that have come my way since I had the misfortune of falling while packing my car, June 9, at Roxbury, Pennsylvania Camp Ground and fracturing three vertebra in my back. It was quite depressing the first weeks, but then the cards and letters began to come and my uplook and outlook was much improved. I still had much pain which was my burden as Gal. 6:5 states, "For every man shall bear his own burden." But the great Burden Bearer and His helpers lightened it and made it more bearable. X-rays show that it will not be crippling, but will require several weeks of rest or partial rest. So the least I can do is to say "Thank You."

The seven weeks of looking up have taught me to be more caring. I hope I will be a better witness of God's love in the future than I have in the past in understanding others who hurt, and return the small things I can to help make their burdens lighter.

The longer we walk with the Lord the more we love Him, the dearer He becomes, the darker the world of sin looks, and the more to be shunned. Then when the devil brings sorrow, pain or whatever our way we can look up and say "Thank You Lord." You went before and suffered for us the just for the unjust and you know our needs, too.

The great oaks that the shipbuilders use to weather the stormy seas are not cut from the valley but from the mountain tops where the four winds, rains, hail and snow blast them from every side perhaps twenty-four hours a day and they have stood the test. Great Bible characters such as Moses, Joseph, Daniel, Job, Paul and many more faced and won with their Lord great trials in suffering through endurance.

We can be winners too, but we must endure temptation. When the trials come we should always remember that our great Trial Winner went before and taught us how to win, and He will also help us to win. He said to His followers before He went away "Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world." This applies to us today also. Praise God! He is wonderful!

Again I say "Thank You, dear friends" and "Thank You, Lord" for the experience that has drawn me closer to you.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder RD 2 Box 129 Oakland, MD 21550

#### SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 15, 1928

A FEW THOUGHTS

Ada Whitman

Since worldliness is flooding the mother church and departures from the faith are manifest some seem to assume the wrong meaning of the parable of the tares and give that meaning as an excuse for the tolerance of this worldliness. They seem to think the field means the church and thus tolerate the worldly church member and in that sense they say, "let the tares grow up with the wheat." In Matt. 13:24-30 we find this parable of the tares.

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

It is important to note what the kingdom of heaven is likened to. It is not to the field in which the tares and the wheat were both sown nor to the enemy who sowed the tares but to the man which sowed good seed.

The kingdom does what the sower is represented as doing. It sows the good seed. It is true that verse 37 states that the sower of the good seed is the Son of Man, and these two passages do not conflict. Since Jesus ascended to heaven His work is done through and by the kingdom or church.

Verse 38 of this same chapter states clearly that the field is the world, not the church, but the world.

After the disciples enquired of Jesus if they should go and gather up the tares He said, "Nay, lest while you gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them." In the Christian Lesson Commentory 1900 we find that the roots of the wheat and tares were often so intertwined that one could not be pulled up without the other.

The Lord does not mean to prohibit discipline in the church lest it might lead astray weaker brethren, but to prohibit the church from persecuting heretics and unbelievers, and to prohibit it on the ground that it would be ruinous to the church itself. The struggle that would arise would often cause the slaughter of his followers, the wheat would be pulled up as well as the tares, the world would everywhere regard Christians as relentless foemen, and would seek to destroy them. Besides, the attempt to remove the tares from the world would demoralize the church. So we see clearly that the tares do not mean the worldly church members.

Some seem to think that when we point out this worldliness to the individual, we are judging our brother or sister. When we have absolute facts we are not judging. When we see those of the church following after the world in dress and pleasure, bobbing the hair, decking themselves with jewelry, dressing after the immodest fashion of the world we are not judging if we refuse to fellowship those things for God's word speaks out against them. John the Baptist cried out against the individual sin and brought men to repentance. Jesus said, woe to you Scribes and Pharisees,

hypocrites. We are responsible for what we fellowship, and there is danger of being a partaker of other men's sins.

We hear a great deal these days about the great program of the church and about numbers. It is true the work of the church is a great work but the church is not to be brought down to the level of the world to get the numbers. If souls are to be saved they must be converted from the world and brought up to the plane of the church to Gospel requirements.

The adversary surely has a good chance to gain headway when the ministers will keep silent and not take a stand against these worldly influences that are coming in (and that over the protest of the faithful few) and robbing the church of its power and influence for good. We are either for or against. There is no neutral ground. In I Cor. 5:11-13 Paul says, "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person." The last part of the 13th verse refers us to Deut. 13:5 which says so shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

Some seem to think that Paul here in verse 11 just meant we are not to eat with the fornicator. Why pick out just the fornicator when all those other sins are listed right along with it. I believe he meant those others just as strong as he did that one particular sin. In Romans 16:17 he again says, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

It isn't the loyal and faithful that cause the divisions but those that walk contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned.

Now, going back to the parable again, in the last verse it seems as though some of the binding in bundles is going on now. Things are bundling up. The business world is compacting, they are binding together in secret societies, nations are leagueing together, churches are federating. Not long ago I read an item in a daily paper where 93 churches in one of our cities were united in a great Sunday School drive for members. And one of those churches was the Church of the Brethren. My prayer is that those who sincerely want to serve the Master instead of the world will see conditions as they are and come out from among them and be united in a strong power against the evil. We can't be a friend of the world and serve the Lord too. James 4:4 says, ".... whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

## **NEWS ITEMS**

### GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Goshen Congregation will hold their Harvest Meeting on September 4. Bro. Dennis St. John of Bryan, Ohio will be the speaker. We invite all to come and worship with us.

Sister Rebecca Stalter, Cor.

#### THANK YOUR

Many thanks to the Brethren and Sisters who sent cards for our 40th Anniversary. May God bless you.

In Christian Love, Brother Roy and Sister Ada Meyers

### PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Church plans a Harvest Meeting on Sunday, August 28, with Bro. Terry Gunderman as the speaker.

The Lord willing, we will have Revival Meetings, October 7-16 with Bro. Henry Walker as evangelist. Services will be at 7:30 nightly with the Lovefeast Service on October 15 at 7:00 P.M.

We invite all to these meetings. Please pray if you can't come to be with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

## NOTICE

Tapes are available again this year of the 1988 Conference. They are still \$1.50 each or \$16.50 per set. There are nine preaching tapes and two singing tapes. Call (419) 337-6251 or write:

Sister Vera Pike 3-12967 SH 108 Wauseon, Ohio 43567



When the suspension bridge across the Niagara was to be erected, the question, was how to get the cable over. With a favoring wind, a kite was elevated, which alighted on the other shore. To its insignificant string, a cord was attached which was drawn over, then a rope, then a larger rope, then a cable strong enough to sustain the iron cable which supported the bridge, over which heavily laden trains passed in safety. This could never have been done but for the little kite-string, which may represent a weak faith, yet reaches to Christ and Heaven.

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1988

September 4 - Jacob and Esau Meet - Genesis 33:1-20.

- 1. What are the dangers of parental partiality? verse 2.
- Consider the outcome of the meeting without Esau's forgiveness.
- September 11 Jacob Builds an Altar; Rachel Dies Gen. (34:1-31) 35:1-29.
  - 1. What is the meaning of Bethel? Genesis 28:19-22.
  - Do we need to put away any "strange gods" so we can go up to Bethel? (House of God)
- September 18 Joseph Dreams (Genesis 36:1-43) Genesis 37:1-36.
  - 1. Does God still speak through dreams?
  - 2. What seed of discord did Jacob sow in his family? (wives and children)
- September 25 Potiphar Buys Joseph (Genesis 38:1-30) Genesis 39:1-23.
  - 1. Did God forget Joseph in Egypt? verse 2, 3, 23
  - 2. What was the secret to Joseph's victory? verse 9b.

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1988

- September 4 Sleep Mark 13:33-37, Rom. 13:10-14, Eph. 5:14-17, I Thess. 5:5-10.
  - 1. What steps lead to spiritual sleepiness?
  - 2. Why must we "awake out of sleep"? I Peter 5:8, Romans 13:11.

September 11 - Young Man's Fall - Acts 20:1-12, I Cor. 10:1-12.

- 1. Do we sleep while others preach? Why?
- Do we need to watch where we sit spiritually speaking? Ps. 1:1.

September 18 - Leaven - Matt. 16:10-12, Gal. 5:1-9.

- 1. What was the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees?
- 2. How do we purge our hearts of spiritual leaven? Ex. 12:15, 19, II Cor. 13:5.

September 25 - The Fig Tree - Matt. 21:17-22, Mark 11:11-24.

- Does Jesus find fruit as He views our lives?
- 2. What is the cause of and end result of unfruitfulness? Matt. 13:22, Matt. 3:10.

Paul Stump 10340 N. Diamond Mill Union. OH 45322

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME

This world is not my home, I'm just a passing thru, My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue; The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

They're all expecting me, and that's one thing I know, My Savior pardoned me and now I onward go; I know He'll take me thru tho I am weak and poor And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

I have a loving mother up in gloryland, I don't expect to stop until I shake her hand; She's waiting now for me in heaven's open door And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

Just up in gloryland we'll live eternally, The saints on ev'ry hand are shouting victory, Their song of sweetest praise drift back from heaven's shore And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

- Unknown

### **TREASURES**

Men have many treasures, which they value. Some they value more than others. What seems valuable to one will be of little value to another. When a man thinks something to be valuable, he will develop a fondness for it. In fact he may place such a high value upon it that he becomes obsessed with it. He will do almost anything to protect it. It becomes the focal point of his mind and his heart.

Money or some special article that money will buy will often become a man's treasure. A man will not only hoard his money but he will scheme how he can get more either through investment, interest or other increase. Because his wealth is his treasure he will begin to develop marginally dishonest means for protecting or increasing his present hoard. He may develop dishonest business schemes or deal falsely with his tax reporting.

For some wealth is not their treasure. It is for them some object that they possess. It may be an heirloom that has been in the family for many generations. They begin to think they could hardly live without it. They take great pains to protect it. It may be locked away in a vault and of no use to anyone.

Others' treasures may not be money or objects bought with money. The cars, houses, lands and other objects may not seem very important to some but there are other links to this world that take on primary value. While these treasures may be more noble than material treasures, they still can have too much value. Families are very important and each member of the family should be treasured but even families dare not become the greatest treasure.

# THE BIBLE MONITOR

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Still, it remains that we each must choose what our treasure will be. If the treasures of this world have the highest priority, then our hearts will be centered there. That is what will be thought about. That is what will be most important and will receive the utmost effort.

The treasures of this world are temporal. No matter how well protected, treasures will decay. Money can be destroyed by fire, earth or water. It can be devalued by governmental action or by the fall of a government or by the unscrupulous action of people of power and influence.

The objects money can buy may also be destroyed. They will grow old and no longer function properly. They may be stolen, no matter how well protected by alarms and fences. The treasures of this earth are liable to corruption and thievery.

Since earthly treasures are so unstable and perishable, what can a person hold to that will persist? Only a Heavenly treasure will endure. Only an eternal treasure will do.

Whether that treasure is viewed as a possession or a goal it is the treasure that demands first place in the heart and mind of the Christian. Too many goals today are hardly worthy of the effort demanded to secure them. They will disappear even if once secured for they are only temporal. They can disappear, be taken away or be destroyed. If an all out effort is going to be expended it should be in a worthwhile endeavor.

Not only is the eternal treasure the securing of the goal, it is also the effort to secure it. The Goal of a Heavenly Home is certainly worth of every effort made. But the effort itself is of value. The good done and the glory and praise given to God are worthy treasures for the Christian. The Christian is in the race not only to secure the Home in Heaven at the end of the race but he must have a daily desire to be serving God by direct efforts in his service or through indirect service to other people. This treasure although not measured in monetary value can not be taken away from the Christian. What he does for God or even his neighbor cannot be destroyed or stolen.

Men will risk much, even their lives to secure earthly treasures. The real tragedy is that men not only risk their lives but also their souls to get earthly riches or position. They are willing to ignore or disobey God in order to have what they have their hearts set on.

How much more valuable is the Christian's treasure? Yet how much risk is he willing to take to secure it? Is he willing to risk life and limb? Is he even willing to risk getting out of his comfort zone to secure that treasure? Too many Christians are too comfortable where they are to risk anything so they might have an even greater treasure.

How much effort would you expend to secure a worldly treasure? Would you be willing to expend that effort to secure an even greater treasure? You can!

# ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Hot, Cold or Lukewarm"

Isn't it amazing that today the conservative church wants to be accepted by a world that could not accept the One we follow, Jesus Christ? We desire the things of the world, the esteem of the peoples of the world... and ultimately, when we look back over our sojourn here, these things are going to look strangely grim and invaluable in the light of His glory and grace.

As we look back to the 1980's, will our prayer lives look thread-bare and ragged? Will our loyalty seem to have been faltering and sick? Will our sacrifice for the Kingdom appear pale and pathetic? Will our zeal seem small and our limping love bring tears to our eyes? There is a time coming soon when "the harvest will be past, our summer ended..." and we will stand before the judgment seat of God. Will this occasion find our swords unbloodied from having no spiritual warfare? Will we be hunting for excuses as to our lack of commitment? Now is the time to correct our slim sacrifice.

Christians and the church have probably never faced a greater challenge from the powers of darkness than is experienced today. If the fire goes out in the boiler room of the church, the place still looks neat and clean but it is cold. The same is true of the "boiler room" of our hearts. When our holy passion ceases to move us; then we become cold inside even though we still have all the exterior markings of a Christian. Our power is lost and complacency sets in.

I talk to Christians today who think the church is becoming lukewarm. If this is true, then we are each one personally responsible. God ignores a cold church. He rejoices in a hot church with the presence of His Spirit. He vomits the lukewarm church from His mouth.

The lukewarm church is well illustrated in Christ's communication to Laodicea. The Laodicean church is a church where everything is decided by popular opinion and not by prayer and fasting. It is a church with packed council meetings but with much less fervor for worship. It is prosperous and everything seems, somehow, to center around the treasury. Laodicea was prosperous and the city was the center of the banking system. Industry flourished and there was a center for the practice of medicine there. Eyesalve was their major export and it is ironic that the Lord says, "I counsel thee to anoint thine eyes with eyesalve." They

were finally identified as wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked! That is a pretty scathing indictment. With all that they seemed to have that people could see... they were backrupt of heart.

Along with you, I am very concerned about the horror of pornography, abortion, murder, crime, divorce and AIDS... but the time has come when judgment must begin at the house of the Lord. The salt is losing its savor. You know, when salt loses its savor it doesn't lose its potency. When it ceases to heal, it proceeds to corrupt. This is true of a lukewarm church. It is a greater hinderance than a cold one.

It almost seems that instead of healing the cripple at the gate, the church is crippled and is asking for alms to carry on its work. What a dicotomy. If ever we needed to be praying for healing of the church, it is today. We are concerned about the healing of our nation... but we must look closer than that. As the Church goes, so goes the world.

We live in the age of impatience. Everything is "instant." Instant marriage, instant divorce, for example. Few people wait upon the Lord. Oh yes, we are quick to pour out our complaint to Him but we forget to wait until He talks to us. We expect fast service from our prayers just like we expect to whiz through the express lane at K-Mart... the lane for ten requests or less!

Lukewarmness occurs when our flesh pulls us more than we are aware of... when we live daily without eternity's values in focus... when we act and react as spiritual dwarfs and want the companionship of giants... when we are satisfied to wear faded garments of lack-luster commitment.

Lukewarmness occurs when we "nest" in prayer rather than "wrestle" in prayer... when we equate "bigness" with effectiveness in the church... and when we can consider the Word of God "trivia."

Could it be that we should be praying for death instead of life? We need to pray for the death of self... "That we might know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering." Let's discontinue the practice of preening our feathers and let's try our wings. Let's live with the view from the vantage point of eternity.

OUR PRAYER: "Revive us, Lord. Give us zeal unabated. Breath upon us and sweep through us and give us life and power. Cleanse and renew us and make us fit to meet the challenge of our age. Help us to see the fields white and MAKE US HOT, LORD. Equip us to spread your light." In Jesus Name, Amen.

Brother Len Wertz

# CHRISTIAN AMERICA IS SPIRITUALLY ADRIFT

Part 4

Many individuals are living a deprived, immoral, regrettable and miserable lives because they yielded to the lust of the eye and the lust of the flesh which definitely is not of God but is of the Devil. John 2:16.

Because of guilt there is a surge of suicides among teenagers. Many are in deep trouble because they lost their manhood and womanhood. They are so engrossed in sin that they cannot even live with themselves. They commit suicide, thinking it is the easy way out. Dr. Steven Stark of Auburn University, in speaking of adolescent suicides, stated that the rate is much higher among those who do not attend Sunday School than among those who do. It pays to serve Jesus each step of the way.

Conditions today are far from the way God has ordained them to be. Certainly, it is only through His mercy and grace that He has not already sent His Son, Jesus, to take His OBEDIENT children out of this sin-cursed world. The time for His second coming may not be far in the distance.

Many people admit that what they are hearing is watered down, that in many churches all that remains is a social religion. They do not receive the sincere milk of the Word (I Peter 2:2) nor spiritual our land, is because the true Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is not being preached from the pulpit.

Many people admit that what they are hearing is watered down, that in many churches all that remains is a social religion. They do not receive the sinners milk of the Word (I Peter 2:2) nor spiritual meat (I Cor. 10:3), neither do they receive the Bread of Life. John 6:48, Jesus speaking, "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE." As a consequence, the lives of churched people are not being converted, transformed or renewed as they should be and as God intended.

Years ago many homes displayed a motto, "Christ is the head of the home." Is He? Today many homes are the arena for child abuse and battered women. Often it is a case where both parents grievously abuse and torture their children. Children are pounded by their father with their fists until the child loses consciousness. Many have been battered and bruised with rods or boards. One father, with a lighted cigarette, burned his son's body many, many times.

Another made his son take his shirt off and lay on his stomach. Then he took a lit cigarette lighter and went up and down his back, the burns blistered and festered, but the father made his son go to school. Which turned out to be a good thing for the boy. He could

not sit down in his seat. He stood beside it. Finally the teacher was about to punish him. The boy was warned by his father never to tell what he did to him. The boy could not take more punishment so he told the teacher. It is law that a teacher, doctor, minister, nurse, police officer and so forth learn of child abuse they are to report it to the proper authorities. The teacher did his duty. He reported it. The law took the child from the home and arrested the father.

A seven year old boy, was so deformed, that his father and mother agreed to lock him in a clothes closet. He was there for months without the benefit of a bathroom and was given food, only when the parents chose to give it. The neighbors realizing that they had not seen the boy for some time, notified the police. They investigated and released a very emaciated boy. They took the boy away from the parents.

Another boy was tied to a post in the cellar while his father beat him unconscious.

These few instances are just the tip of the iceberg. Many abused children never make it publicly known. Such fathers are deliberately breaking God's law. Col. 3:21 definitely states, "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." That does not mean the parents are not to correct or punish their children, if the need arises. But not to brutily beat them.

Not only the children but many men batter their wives shamefully. They strike with blow after blow. This condition is so bad and so universal that shelters have been provided where these women, often with their children, can go for protection and treatment. God's Word teaches us in Col. 3:19, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."

If people would turn to God's Word and live it, there would be no need for organizations such as Parents Anonymous, Crisis Intervention, Department of Human Services, Child Advocacy Center, Family Counseling Service, Rape Crisis Center and a host of other agencies confronted with these problems.

IT PAYS TO SERVE JESUS EACH DAY.

To be continued. Brother Paul R. Myers 5005 Higbee Ave., NW Canton, OH 44718

# 1988 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from August 15, 1988 Issue

Sunday P.M.

Elder Harley Flory opened. Matthew 9:35-38. The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Let us be faithful servants.

Elder William Carpenter. Genesis 4:7. If Thou Doest Well? - And If Not Well. Adam and Eve's first two sons were named Cain and Abel. Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground for the Lord. Cain's offering at that time was not a blood offering. By faith Abel offered a most excellent sacrifice to the Lord. He brought the first of his flock as an offering to the Lord. God accepted Abel's offering and it was consumed by fire that came down from Heaven. Cain became very wroth when rejected by the Lord. Anger can deteriorate our body, and also it can deteriorate us spiritually. Cain took Abel out in the field and took his life. God asked Cain where his brother was. He told God he knew not, and this was a lie. Cain said, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The penalty of sin is death. Cain was very grieved of this sin he committed and he went out to dwell in the land of Nod.

Elder Emmert Shelly. John 15:1-11. Abiding. Jesus has given Himself that we can work out our soul's salvation. Is our name written in that Book in Heaven? Have we accepted our Lord and Savior? We should have a happy heart that Jesus came as our Savior. We should be very thankful that we can become heirs of our Heavenly Father. Have we built upon that rock Jesus Christ? If we abide in Him we must live faithful to Christ. All our life here on this earth are we doing all we can to work for Jesus? Jesus said in John 15:5, "I am the vine, ye are the branches; He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without me ye can do nothing." Do you have your mind centered on Heavenly things? Take up my yoke upon you for my burden is light Jesus tells us in the Holy Word.

Elder Harley Rush closed. How often do we forget our Brother or Sister? Am I my Brother's keeper? If we are willing to abide in the faith ye must live faithful to Christ and His teachings.

Sunday Evening.

Elder Dale Jamison opened. II Corinthians 5:1. The love of Christ constraineth us. The love of Christ constrained the Apostle Paul. The Apostle Paul was a faithful worker for Christ.

Elder Robert Carpenter. I Peter 2:1-6. Growing. All around us we see signs of growing. There are four signs of growing. Grain when planted in the ground, our bodies, our spiritual being and the Church. A grain of wheat as just a kernel is dead. A little grain of wheat put in the ground germinates and comes forth in a new life. This is a marvel that God has given us. Our spiritual being after we are born again is a new life. The Apostle Paul was changed and turned around by the Lord. The church began to grow at Penecost. Jesus said, "Upon this rock I build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." After the grain of wheat grows up it

reaches maturity. A little child grows up from an infant to a teenager to maturity. These are all miracles of God. While we are living we are growing. Spiritual maturity takes in most of our lives. When grain is growing many things can cause it to depreciate for a time. While growing in the church many problems happen to make us stronger. Our bodies sometimes are plagued with a disease. Sometimes when this happens it makes us spiritually stronger. In the midst of the trials there can be joy. One of the definitions of growing is flourishing. Our life is a journey unto death. As a stock of corn dies, it leaves an ear. As our bodies decline and grow old we pass from this scene. That is a beautiful thing. Our soul has more hope. Our soul and spirit does not decline, but makes a preparation. After our soul leaves this earth our prayer is to meet our Heavenly Father.

Elder Fred Pifer. Job 2:1-3. To the Young People. Hold Fast Thine Integrity. There are two people who desire your lives. It is God and Satan. When stress comes in your life, this might be Satan. Integrity means purity. Those of you who are whole in Christ remain there. If you have integrity hold it. Satan will try to take it away from you. There will be times in your life you will have to hold on to your integrity and say, "no." Sometimes even in our own family we have to hold on to our integrity and say, "no." Job said "no" to his wife. He would not curse God and die. He held on to his integrity. He did not obey his wife. When we lose our integrity our sins become as scarlet. We need to study God's Holy Word to know good from evil. If we stop meditating on God's Holy Word we can very easily fall into sin and lose our integrity. Young people you need to walk away from sin to hold on to your integrity. Young people sometimes you have to stand alone with your integrity. God will be with you if you stay away from sin. Young people if you allow Satan to deceive you to sin in fornication you need to run away, flee from it and hold to your integrity. If you are a child of God and have lost your integrity you can get back with Christ and have a clean heart again and inherit that eternal life.

Elder Paul Stump closed. We have been spiritually fed. Young people feed on God's Word. There is so much filthy literature today. Read and study God's Holy Word.

Monday A.M.

Bro. James Meyers opened. Mark 6:30-35. We came here this morning to refresh our minds as we study out of God's Word.

Adult Bible Study Lesson. II Timothy 3:1-17. Throughly Furnished for Perilous Times.

Children. I Kings 17:1-24. God cares for His Servant.

Bro. David Aungst. Galatians 5. Church Builders, Church

Destroyers. We are going to have to know God and Jesus, so we can learn and grow from the Holy Word. We should be able to grow for Jesus Christ. Are we letting our light shine? Before we start to be builders in the Church we must get ourselves right with God and be saved. If we are not builders in the Church we are nothing but destroyers. Jesus Christ is captain of our salvation. nothing, but Jesus is everything. We must look at our own life. Are we living close to the Holy Word of God. Jesus loved us and He gave His life that we might have a Church. A double minded person is unstable in all his ways. That is not a builder in the Church. Do we let our light shine out in this old world? Can the world tell if we are living according to Christ's teaching? We must be a kind and loving people if we want to be a builder in the Start to volunteer and do the work of the Church. Encourage others to go to Church and learn out of God's Holy Word. Stand up for Christ and be willing to do the work of the Church, teaching others the way of Christ. Don't let Satan sting you and cause you to lose your faith in Christ. You can't be a builder in the Church if you let Satan deceive you. Satan is the Angel of Light. We must be faith believing and keep our minds close to Christ's teaching. Let's work in unity and not have two heads in the Church. Christ is the only Head we must follow. Let's live for Him. After we build a Church we want to teach our children. We must be a good example to our children, telling them of Jesus and the great glories of God. We can build their faith in Christ. In the future they too can be builders in the future Church. Are we evangelists for Jesus Christ? Are we instructing people with Christ's teachings. Are we building in the Church?

Bro. Merle Sweitzer closed. It takes each one of us to build each other up. The Word is the authority of our life. If we become a friend of the world we become an enemy of God.

To be continued Sister Alice Heisey

# SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 1, 1928

I CORINTHIANS 11:6

William Wells

"For if the woman be not covered let her also be shorn, but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven let her be covered."

Plainer words could not be spoken. I take the stand that this statement is just as essential and comes to us today with as much force and backing as the words of Jesus Christ to Nicodemus in

regard to his spiritual birth when He (Jesus) said except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of heaven. Yes, but says some one, "the saying of John 3 was spoken by Jesus himself and I Cor. 11 was spoken by Paul."

I heard a minister in our Church make such a statement as that as late as 1928. He was not talking to me but he was in my house at the time he said it. I some way held my peace.

I contend, brethren, that a statement like that is anti-scriptural and with the most flimsiest foundation. The words of Paul come to us today with the same backing that the words of Christ do. What Jesus Christ said while he was living and teaching here on the earth would never availed anything had it not been for the coming of the Holy Ghost to bring to the memory of his disciples what he said. Every thing that he said would have died with him had it not been for the coming of the Holy Ghost. This is clear to me, as I shall try to prove. While Christ's body was lying in the tomb one afternoon Peter said, "I go a fishing", and there was a number of the other disciples that jumped at the conclusion and off they went to the Sea of Gallilee or some place else and looked up their old fishing boat and at it they went. The whole thing was off, all was a failure, the man of Gallilee was dead and buried. "We must make a living for ourselves and families so we would just as well go back to our same old job." If this is not what they said they surely acted it out all right. And I imagine some of them were going around with long faces lamenting. They thought he was going to restore again the kingdom of Israel. To say the least the only hope his followers had of Christ's mission was to restore their kingdom and he be their king. But with the coming of the Holy Ghost such thoughts vanished. And they were filled with vigor and knowledge to the extent that the earthly kingdom vanished from them. But instead the sayings of their teacher loomed up before them as they never did before.

Peter said to Jesus one time, I will die for thee, but Peter did not understand. But when Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit then he understood. So Peter did not tell any story after all, he did die for his Master.

So I believe after all Jesus did more for the salvation of his apostles when he sent the Holy Spirit to bring to their rememberance what he had said than he did when he said it. And the same spirit was so mighty in revealing to Peter and the rest of the apostles the teaching of Jesus was equally as mighty in the life and teaching of Paul in I Cor. 11:6, and all of his fourteen letters to the various churches that he wrote to. Now, brethren, what I am about to say I am not saying it just to be hard-boiled, it comes from my heart, and not boasting of my righteousness, God forbid, but when

a sister sits down to the communion table and partakes of the communion with her hair cut off she commits a gross sin. She would ten times better have her head shaved. And I believe from my heart why so much of that is seen among so many of our sisters is for the lack of pulpit teaching. Brethren, listen, there is no organization on this earth today and never was, that had power over sin only the Church, and that the Church has; for Jesus Christ emphatically said, "Whose sins ye remit they are remitted and whosoever sins ye retain they are retained." If that saying of Jesus will not apply to the New Testament Church then where can it be applied? I know of mothers who are doing all they can against the evil of their girls cutting off their hair and some few of them are successful and some are not, while on the other hand some are doing nothing, only laying the example. Just recently a young sister, less than twenty years old, said to me like this, "I did not know that it meant so much to belong to the Church, why are we young people not taught more of the doctrines of the Church?" Read Paul in II Cor. 11:2-3.

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealously, for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you a chaste virgin to Christ." Listen, "But I fear lest by any means as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtility so your mind should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

Paul's teaching, backed by the power of the Holy Spirit is just as sacred to Jesus as if He had said it himself. To me, to question the authority of the writing of the apostles would be to question the authority of the Holy Ghost.

# HOW GREAT THOU ART

During the weeks of my convalescence I have thought much about the working of God. Everything in this great universe is a witness to the fact that God is, His great wisdom in creation, His power, and the ways in which everything does or should witness of Him, and praise Him from the smallest, oddest plant and animal to the stars, planets and galaxies. God made all for His pleasure and to be witnesses to man that He is the Almighty.

A cactus plant, a night blooming Ceries always intrigues me when it blooms. It requires several weeks to grow large buds about the size of my fist each one on an approximately seven inch long hollow tube from which the flower opens at dark. The bloom consists of many long petals of pure white formed in bell shape and last only until dawn the next morning. In the center is a pure white pistil in star shape, back of which is a beautiful formation of

numerous pure white stamens each attached to a pure white thread resembling white nylon, all of which extend back through the long tube to where the bud was first formed. The whole inside of the bloom is shimmering white when a flash light is shined into it. Many people upon seeing the bloom for the first time exclaim, "I have never seen anything like that before."

To me the blooms of the night bloomer represent the second advent of Christ who as the Great Star came riding through the clouds in the jet darkness followed by the angels and the redeemed of the ages. It gives one a feeling of awe to even behold such an inspiring creation of God, so fragile, yet it has stood the test of time, perhaps since creation, as a witness to us of Christ's return.

The fact that each little stamen has its own silken thread running the length of the tube to its beginning would resemble each person's faith in Jesus Christ — the one who gives each of us spiritual life with clean hands and pure heart. If the tube is cut the connecting threads are severed and fall from the bloom. So if we are cut off from Christ we too fall away from His kingdom and are of no value. The very sweet odor of the plant that invades the whole house may be likened to our Christian walk as being a light or something to be desired, a witness for Christ.

The plant itself is a native of the tropics where it is choked and hindered by the dense tall plants and trees. But it has long running limbs tht climb the trucks of the trees to reach the sunlight. This, too, is a symbol of the Christian who is constantly choked and hindered by Satan trying to separate us from Christ and to keep us from being fruitful spiritually. It takes effort to be beautiful, blooming plants in the dense hot tropics, and it also takes effort for us to be fruitful spiritual plants in the wilderness of sin.

As God created the plants perfect He also created man perfect. But man did not stay perfect; he sinned. Then God did something special for man, He sent His only Son to redeem him and pay the price with His own blood to give him the free gift of redemption.

Will our hearts and garments be pure white and glistening that we may be following our Bright and Morning Star in that formation of saints and angels when they descend from Heaven in the Lord's Day upon the earth. It is worth our all. May we pray and strive to be in that number. Whatever the cost, it is worth it all.

Eternity! Where?

# THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Sanctification J. H. Moore

The doctrine of sanctification runs all through the Bible, and is most clearly taught, as well as defined in Rom, 6:19. Revised Version: "For as ye presented your members as servants to uncleanness and to iniquity, even so now present your members as servants to righteousness unto sanctification." The doctrine of sanctification, while closely related to the doctrine of holiness. consecration and even perfection, means the setting apart for a special purpose. God sanctified the seventh day. That is, he set the day apart for a holy or special purpose. It is said that he sanctified the tabernacle. It was dedicated to the Lord and his special use. When one is fully set apart to serve the Lord, or is dedicated to the Lord, or consecrated to his service, then he is sanctified, he is made holy. In John 17:17 Jesus prayed the Father to sanctify his apostles "through thy truth"; then he added: "Thy word is truth." The sanctification, or more fully setting apart, was to be effected through the truth. The Word of God gives directions how this may be done. In I Peter 1:22 we read: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit." Here the process is given. Men and women are to be purified, sanctified, or made holy, by obeying the truth. All of this is to be done through the Spirit, but not independent of obeying the Word. Those who accept Christ in faith and comply with the conditions connected with conversion, regeneration and the new birth, are dedicated to the Lord's service. — consecrated. — and therefore sanctified and made holy. Like the apostles, they have been sanctified in obeying the truth. It is a complete dedication, a complete setting apart.

But we are not here teaching the so-called doctrine of sinless perfection. There are those who hold that in sanctification they have reached a point of perfection where it is impossible for them to sin. The claims of such pretenders have brought the doctrine into bad repute in many communities. As a rule, those who set up this claim for themselves, premeditatedly ignore a number of the plain commands recorded in the New Testament. We do not teach that kind of sanctification. The sanctification that we teach and emphasize is the complete setting apart of the new-born creature to the perfect service of God, and the man who yields himself to this perfect service will not knowingly ignore any of the divine requirements.

## **NEWS ITEMS**

# WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

The Lord willing, the Walnut Grove Congregation is looking forward to a scheduled revival meeting of one week starting September 25 and ending with our Lovefeast on Sunday, October 2. Bro. Allen Eberly from Lititz, Pennsylvania will be the evangelist. Come and encourage us with your presence and prayers, that saints will be revived and souls saved.

Sister Dorothy Nell, Cor.

## BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Revival Meetings held July 15 through 24, 1988 began with memorable firsts for the Bethel Congregation. The first night of the revival was the first worship service in our new church building. This was also the first revival effort by our evangelist, Bro. Mike Wray from Modesto, California.

We certainly enjoyed the spirit-filled messages and were reminded of our many duties and obligations to Christ and the Church; our responsibilities as husbands and fathers, wives and mothers, parents and children; our relationship within the church family; to neighbors and friends and business associates. Let us live out the messages we have heard. Revival - Renewal - Rebuilding. Changing our hearts and lives to what Christ would have us do.

We were happy to have Sis. Donna with us during this time. May God bless Bro. Wray with many years of service for the Master.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.



An aged sinner said, "When I was young, I said, 'I cannot give up the world now, but will when I have passed the meridian of life; then I shall be ready to attend to the concerns of my soul.' But here I am an old man. I feel no disposition to enter upon the work of salvation. In looking back, I often feel as if I would give worlds if I could be placed where I was when I was twenty years old. There were not half so many difficulties in my path then as there are now."

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

VOL. LXVI

SEPTEMBER 15, 1988

NO. 18

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# BRIGHTLY GLEAMS OUR BANNER

Brightly gleams our banner, Pointing to the sky, Waving on Christ's soldiers To their home on high. Marching thro' the desert, Gladly thus we pray, Still with hearts united Singing on our way.

Jesus, Lord and Master, At Thy sacred feet, Here with hearts rejoicing See Thy children meet; Often have we left Thee, Often gone astray; Keep us, mighty Savior, In the narrow way.

All our days direct us In the way we go; Lead us on victorious Over ev'ry foe; Bid Thine angels shield us When the stormclouds low'r; Pardon, Lord, and save us In the last dread hour.

Then with saints and angels May we join above, Off'ring prayers and praises At Thy throne of love; When the toil is over, Then comes rest and peace; Jesus in His beauty, Songs that never cease.

- Thomas J. Potter

# DAVID, GOLIATH, YOU AND ME

Possibly the best known Bible story is the story of David and Goliath. It is known by small children and old grandfathers. The importance of that story transcends the importance of that particular situation. It speaks of the battle between large and small, right and wrong. Beyond the simple moral lesson that this story teaches there are several other lessons contained within this story. Like other Bible passages, I Sam. 17 can be mined for new gems of truth even though it has been studied many times before.

David was taken aback by the cowardice of the army of Israel. Whenever Goliath appeared to make his boast not only against Israel's army, but against Israel's God as well, the army cowered. Even Saul, the king, was disheartened. Instead of being out in front with his troops he was in his tent.

David could not understand this fear. He had faced many dangers as a shepherd and he was willing to face danger again in defense of his God. When David was brought before Saul, before he went out to face Goliath, Saul put his own armor on David. That armor was way too big and heavy for David. David could not handle himself in that armor. He put it off for he could not wear armor he had not proven.

A lesson for us is that we must each fight our own battle. We must prove our own armor. First, we must be sure we are enlisted in the Lord's army. No matter how much good we do socially, philanthropically or even religiously, it will count for nothing if we are not a child of God. We can become a child of God only on His terms not ours. Second, we must don the armor outlined by Paul in Ephesians 6. We must put on each piece, then prove it in our daily

# THE BIBLE MONITOR

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battle with Satan, sin and self. This armor is designed to protect us only when we advance. It is not designed to cover our backs when we retreat.

David though disdained by Goliath was able to get the advantage by using the weapon that he was used to. His sling and one smooth stone when properly handled by his expert hands brought down the giant. He did not try to use weapons that he was unfamiliar with.

In our daily Spiritual battle we must each use the talents that we have been given. While our talents differ, they are given to each of us by God so we can have victory just like David. We must never forget that the talents or weapons come from God and are placed at our disposal so we might be victorious.

Although David went forth with great courage, he still had discouragements. The greatest discouragement was the size and demeanor of Goliath. He very roughly spoke to David, taking little serious notice of him. Not only did he make light of David, but of David's God as well. If this discouragement was not enough, David also had the discouragement of harsh words from his brother Eliab. The older brother accused David of being merely a curious spectator.

Discouragements come to the Christian both from outside and within the family of God. The surrounding world is never a friend, a true friend, to the Christian. Those of the world will ridicule not only the Christian's life-style — if he truly is separated — but his God as well. There will be doubts expressed about the existence or power of God. The Word of God will be negated and its commandments set at nought.

Discouragement can even be found within the Church. A Christian may be discouraged by the evident lack of progress in the congregation's lack of growth in number or Spirit. Individual fellow Christians may discourage by their irreverent lifestyles. They may discourage through opposition to the launching forth into more dedicated service or holier living. David still went forth though discouragements were about him. The Christian must continue to press onward and upward though discouragement is present.

David's courage encouraged the rest of the army. After he had overcome Goliath, Israel's army took courage, pursued and destroyed most of the Philistines. Without David's courageous example, they were defeated but his courage energized them.

The act born out of courage not only encourages the man himself but it encourages many others. The courageous act soon grows into more acts so a harmful habit can be overcome, a sin can be repented of. We are our "brother's keeper" so our courage can help him to do better. This God given courage is necessary in our

Spiritual lives and theirs.

David had a great and dramatic victory over Goliath. Our Goliaths may not be of the same type but we can learn from David how to face and overcome them.

Do you dare to go forth like David?

# CHRISTIAN AMERICA IS SPIRITUALLY ADRIFT

Part 5

There are a great many terminally ill in hospitals, nursing homes and other institutions. They are there not by choice, but because they need care that cannot be given in their homes. There is no hope for recovery. There is a group, and the group is growing, who advocate euthanasia. Euthanasia is the act or practice of killing individuals who are hopelessly sick or injured — for reasons of mercy. They take the position that a person in that condition has a right to die. That rather than wither, suffer and waste away till life leaves the body, by the use of euthanasia they could "die with dignity." That such persons would have a humane death, thus ending human suffering.

Advocates contend euthanasis should be everyone's perrogative. If such a law were passed, it would legalize suicide for terminal patients, and permit a person to deliberately kill another person. For instance a doctor could administer a lethal medication that would result in death. How can anyone devalue life to the point of deliberate killing. Killing is murder.

Let us compare such teaching with the Word of God. Ecclesiastes 3:2 states, "There is a time to be born and a time to die." God sets these times, not man. Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." What do you think will be the judgment of the man, whoever he is, that takes a life, when the Bible plainly states, "Thou shalt not kill?" Exodus 20:13, Deuteronomy 5:17, Matthew 5:21 and Romans 13:9.

What is the remedy?

Repentant Christians in prayer will be able to do more for America than all the government laws and programs rolled into one. The short comings of our nation are the results of the sins of God's people.

Remember the scripture that I referred to, previously, from II Chronicles 7:14 "IF MY PEOPLE..." It was God's people then that sinned, and the same is true today. We must confess with troubled hearts that America has forgotten God. She is rolling in luxuries, revelling in excesses, frolicking in pleasure, revolting in morals and fast shaping up as it was in the days of Noah.

Ezra must have experienced in his day, among the Children of Israel, similar forsaking of the ways of truth and right. He was prompted to pray a very touching prayer as recorded in Ezra 9:6, "...O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heaven."

When God's people pray, God hears and answers. One person's prayer can influence God. There never has been a Spiritual awakening in any nation or locally that did not begin with fervent prayer. James 5:16, "... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

American today is spending billions of dollars in armament and national defense, at the same time permitting our natural and spiritual life to erode.

Our country is in military, financial, educational, spiritual and moral decay. We face problems so serious as to threaten our very survival as a free nation. Apart from prayer and repentance, America will never experience the power of God in a Spiritual awakening.

Our fore-fathers founded this nation upon the Christian faith. It can only remain a Christian Nation as long as we follow the Lord our God. When the Pilgrims landed on our shores at Plymouth Rock, they knelt upon the shore and dedicated this country to God.

When the Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia to organize this nation and write the Constitution, Benjamin Franklin called on the members of the convention to fall upon their knees and pray for divine wisdom and guidance. This is how our nation, through God's help, in answer to those prayers, became the greatest.

We must return to the faith of our fathers. The present day crisis is acute. The danger is imminent. Time is running out. The choice for America is clear. It is repent or perish. Revival or ruin. Christ or chaos.

Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 5:13, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." America needs to pray for a triple portion of that spiritual salt, before she runs completely out.

I think the plain, fundamental churches believing in and obeying the commandments and keeping the ordinances is what is preventing God from calling an end to time.

May we think seriously about our soul's salvation. May we strive to enter in at the straight gate, as recorded in Luke 13:24, spoken by Jesus, Himself.

Brother Paul R. Myers 5005 Higbee Ave., N.W. Canton, OH 44718

# STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, DANGER

The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4 was admonishing the church at Ephesus. This chapter was directly written for those who were called of the Lord, and were in the number of the Ephesian congregation. Quite a variety of people, yet thinking they were serving the Lord. This reminds me of the present day condition of the churches. Beware that we, each one, be not entangled in these sins. Please read the chapter.

Here is the catalog of sins Paul is warning them about: carried about with every wind of doctrine, vanity of mind that darkens the mind and heart, lasciviousness, uncleanness, greediness, corrupt conversation, lying, wrath, stealing, slothfulness, bitterness, clamour, malice and evil speaking. This is quite a list of bad things to be in one congregation.

Ephesus was the home congregation of the beloved Apostle John. According to Christ's message to John in 96 AD on the Isle of Patmos these problems had been patiently and untiringly dealt with until they were eliminated from the church. However the wound that had been made was so deep that it left a scar that still existed. Love among the people concerned had diminished to the extent that Christ said, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works (love); or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Rev. 2:5.

These sins still have the same impact on the churches today as they had at Ephesus, and even though dealt with leave the same scar — lack of love. Christ's Prescription, "repent," is the same now as then. Why put it off and invite the same judgment as He pronounced upon them? A candle gives light, but if it is removed there is darkness instead of light. Spiritually speaking without light or love we are in spiritual darkness. "God is love." "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one to another." John 13:35. Is our light of love shining bright?

But Paul is saying STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, DANGER as the signs of the old railroad crossings used to say, which meant either stop, look and listen or ignore the danger sign and cross at your own risk of being cut off from the land of the living. I well remember when I

was young an accident in which a car load of young people of this community did not heed the sign and five promising young men and women were suddenly hurled into eternity. Both road and railroad were clear for a long distance, it was day light and nothing apparently was to blame except failing to heed the warning on the cross. The same is true of us today, the Apostle Paul and all the writers of the Bible, family, ministers and friends are giving out the warning signal. But our negligence and rebellion will hurl us into eternal death where the soul never dies and the fire is not quenched if we fail to heed the warnings.

But, praise the Lord, He does give us a way of escape. STOP, LOOK, LISTEN by reading God's Word and prayer and heeding God's commandments we may change our lives to show love, lowliness, meekness, humility, truthfulness, to be more thoughtful of others and less of self, thereby showing ourselves to be approved unto God in love toward others, bearing one another's burdens.

If we do these things the Lord will bless us in this life and life eternal. The door is still open but the time is short. STOP, LOOK, LISTEN. Each person is accountable for his own destiny. Christ paid and canceled the debt for our pardon. But as Eve we are still creatures of choice. Will you choose to accept your ransom?

Sister Ruth M. Snyder RD 2 Box 129 Oakland, MD 21550

# ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Joy to the World"

Joy is a very scarce commodity today. There are many people who say that they are abiding in Christ and yet few show that they are abounding in Him. Why is joy so elusive? How, when they are so blessed as believers, do their souls not cry out in praise and joy?

In Isaiah, we read, "With joy shall ye draw waters from the wells of salvation." Jesus prayed for His disciples, "That they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves." Notice the brand name here... "MY!" This joy is not partial but complete and full. We must remember that happiness depends on happenings but the joy that Jesus gives is not effervescent, not a high emotion riding the crest of a wave. It is rather... as real at the graveside as it is at the fireside. It does not evaporate in the heat of adversity nor does it collapse in the presence of trouble. It does not panic or sour in the test of poverty nor does it die at the cruel hand of tragedy.

Joy is not created by position or possessions but it is created by a Person... Jesus Christ. It can stand all the pressures of Satan or

other circumstances working against it but remember... this sun of the soul can definitely be eclipsed by our own disobedience.

Joy requires at least two conditions: submission and service. "If ye abide" ... indicates submission... even in the times when you'd like to quit. "Thy will be done" means that we can be triumphant over our feelings and fears.

The more you serve, the more joy you will experience. Most Christians seem to get diverted from their task of service due to their vocations or other interests outside the Body. We must do whatever God commands us and be joyful in it. We must endure whatever God appoints, obtain whatever God promises and ultimately, we must die daily! Joy loves "enemies" and it prays without ceasing... giving thanks in everything. Everything!

Joy is a defense for us. It puts us on the offensive in our Christian experience but is a defense against Satan's ploy to make us dissatisfied and unhappy in our day to day living.

Would you have alot of joy if you just had alot of possessions? Of course not! Treasures in the material sense might comfort you for a moment but they can make you anxious and sick just as quickly. Investments in the worldly sense fail. Heavenly investments are eternal. All these earthly investments will someday be burned up or will decay. Heavenly investments will follow you forever.

I have known many sharp executives who have easily been replaced when they didn't meet the Corporation's expectations or maybe they just got a little too old. A throne can topple over night. A president can be impeached in short order. An athlete loses his form and he is dropped in a matter of a week or two. Position does not bring joy that is long lasting.

So, we conclude, joy is in the Person of Jesus Christ. The Bible says, "Who for the joy that was set before Him..." ... Jesus hung naked and shameful on a cruel Calvary. He heard the cry of blasphemy, was tested and tried, had little support from his troup of disciples or the Apostles, was to die framed between two lawbreaking criminals. Yet He had JOY. Why? How? Very simply, Jesus had never deviated from doing His Father's will. When we are in the will of God, we will have joy.

His ministry had brought salvation and liberation to many people. Has yours? This allowed Jesus to experience joy on the cross.

He communicated everything the Father had asked him to speak, whether criticized or not. This brought joy.

He was totally in the will of God. He would be liberated by the cross. His battle with Satan would be over in glorious triumph. He overcame ... and He had joy. And at the same time, He gave us reason to have joy. He gave us love, peace and the power for

evangelism.

Joy... claim it. Thank Jesus for it.

Brother Len Wertz

# 1988 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from September 1, 1988 Issue

Monday P.M.

Bro. Scott Bross opened. Genesis 26:17-26. Each one of us is faced with temptation. We dare not forget where the wells of salvation are. We should dig the wells as Isaac and find interspiritual salvation. Wells fill up with sin in our life. We must hold fast to Christ and His commandments.

Bro. Wilbur Uplinger. Revelation 20:1-9. Characteristics of the Millennial Reign. Many questions may be asked about the Millennial Reign. We have both positive and negative thinking what will take place at that time. There will come a time when the righteous people will look forward to being in that great reign. The people need to accept Christ and live faithful to His teachings before they can be accepted in the great Millennial Reign.

Bro. Michael Wray. II Timothy 4:1-8. Final Exhortations. The Apostle Paul warned they will not listen to sound doctrine. This pertains to our time which we are living. We must preach and teach the Word of God to the people in the world. The Apostle Paul was ready to die for the cause of Christ in Jerusalem. The Apostle Paul said he had long suffering and patience for the will of Christ. Leadership in the body of Christ is long suffering in doctrine. Doctrine means teaching. We must not fail to teach the Bible. The Apostle Paul says make full proof of the ministry. Jesus said those who backslide or puts his hands on the plow and looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of Heaven. The Apostle Paul realized his time was getting close. He said his departure is at hand. He loved the appearing of Christ. He was ready to go and be with Christ but he realized Timothy needed him. Why did he say these things? He had a great love for Christ. The Apostle Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course." The Apostle Paul was not saying here he was done working for God. He was no different than you or me. He kept the faith. Keeping the faith belongs to leadership. If we do not keep the faith in Christ, Satan will enter into our hearts.

Bro. Ronald Marks closed. How long will our committment take us in life? No one knows when our end will come. What is our greatest desire? Would it be the desire of Jesus Christ?

Monday Evening

Elder Charles Leatherman opened. I Samuel 12:14-16, 20-25. Samuel tells us to fear the Lord and serve Him.

Elder Warren Smith. Hebrews 2:1-18. What is Man? God put Adam and Eve in the beautiful garden which was the Garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God took them out. Man's punishment was, he was must work by the sweat of his brow. There will be many thistles to fight. Adam and Eve sinned against God. People today are no different than Adam and Eve. They still sin against God. God has that love for you and me. He wants our full service. He gave His only begotten Son that we might live. We make up mankind, God is not willing that any should perish. We need to worship Him in Spirit and truth. What is man? Does he return that love as the Father in Heaven does us. God has that all seeing eye. He sees everything we do. What is time? Time is given to us by God to live a life for Him. God can change all things. We can find pleasure in the Lord Jesus Christ. This pleasure is far greater than worldly pleasures. Christ tells man "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

Elder James Kegerreis. Ephesians 6:12. Spiritual Warfare. Humanism in this day and age is going on in the cloke of religion. John the Baptist preached, "Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Jesus said, "Come unto me." Unless we are baptized in the church of the living God we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. There is work to be done. There are souls to garner in. Satan is the father of lies. Jesus said, "When I come again will I find faith on the earth?" There is virtue in wearing the prayer veil. Abraham was a great man of God. He had lots of faith in God. Satan is out to deceive us all. There is only one way we can approach God. We can approach God through Christ Jesus. May God help us to stick to the good fight of faith.

Elder Carl Broadwater closed. Do we see Jesus tonight? Let us keep our faith in Christ.

Tuesday A.M.

Bro. Michael Wray opened. Psalms 73. All the inventions in this world can be used for good or evil. There will be problems of falling away in this world. There are all manners of evils around us. We believe that God is good to us. God looks to the hearts of the wicked and it grieves Him to see so much sin in the world.

Bible Study: Adults - Contending for the Faith. Jude 1-25. Children: The Lord Cometh: He is God. I Kings 18:17-40.

Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson. Hebrews 12:3. Don't Fail the Test. There is a test every day of our lives. Are we working for Christ as we should? We should challenge our lives to gain victory over

Satan. We must focus our lives on the Lord Jesus Christ. There are issues in our lives that we may learn of the Holy Word and Christ. You can save your soul if you are still lost, and give your heart to God. He can bring you salvation. The Apostle Paul said, "I can do all things with the strength given me by Christ." If we allow the Spirit of the Lord to work in our lives something can happen. Are we being victorious in rearing our children? We have to change our lives and not make the same mistake again. Are you looking for what God has to show you? We can make our hearts clean from sin with the help of Christ.

Bro. David Aungst closed. We are to be contending in the faith. Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth. In the end we want to be victorious. Without Christ we will fail the test. Young people let's stay away from sin. Let's not fail the test.

Tuesday P.M.

Missionary Program. Bro. Dean Shaffer. Torreon Navajo Mission. We hear about reaching out in the world and helping out in the mission field. Communists are greatly devoted to their way of life. Are we really devoted to Christ as Christians? Just because we are devoted Christians we can't expect all the people in the world to love Christ and know Him without missionary help. Some Navajo young boys saw how lacking their hearts were. They were drug addicts and alcoholics. They learned to know the Lord and were willing to follow Him and cast their sins out of their lives. Do you really know Christ? Is the presence of the Lord with you when you pray?

Bro. James Meyers closed. Emotions rarely accomplish lasting things. We need compassion in the missionary field. Jesus said, "If ye love me ye will keep my commandments."

Tuesday Evening

Elder John Peffer opened. John 8:1-11. Jesus is still writing His commandments with His finger to the people as He did in the sand. He told the woman to go and sin no more after He wrote in the sand.

Elder Jacob Ness. Joel 3:14. Valley of Decision. The great commission is to go and teach all nations. The Apostle Paul started out from Antioch, Greece for his first missionary journey. They went on to Bathsaida. They started some churches along the way. He went back home awhile and then started back on his second missionary journey. He took Timothy with him this time. The Apostle Paul saw there was work to be done in Macedonia. He later went on to Phillippi. The Apostle Paul baptized Lydia into the new church in Phillippi. The Apostle Paul and Silas were put into prison at this time. After they were released from prison they went

to Berea. They were not accepted at Berea. They went back to Athens, Greece to preach the gospel of Christ. Here at Athens, Greece the Apostle Paul preached a wonderful sermon against worshipping idols. Later the Apostle Paul went to Corinth. After being there awhile he headed back towards Rome. He was happy. He said he finished his course. Recompence is coming. What you sow you will also reap. Joel the prophet warned the people, God is a God of mercy, and God is also a God of judgment. The world is so full of everything else they have no room for God. Are there any decisions for us to make? The Spirit of the Lord said, "Come and follow me."

Elder Joseph Flora closed. Matthew 18. When Jesus looked out over the world when He was here, he thought of them as so many sheep without a shepherd. Everyone in the world who hasn't accepted Christ as their Savior is a lost sheep.

Sister Alice Heisey

# SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 15, 1928

# THE INFALLIBLE GUIDE Grant Mahan

Just a short time before Jesus left the world he told his followers that he would send them the Comforter; and the Comforter would bring to their remembrance all the things which they had heard of their Master; he was also to lead them into all truth, to teach them all things, and to abide with them forever. It was a wonderful promise, wonderfully fulfilled, to the comfort of the apostles and the conversion of those who knew not Christ.

We hear of infallibility and we read much about it; but the kind we hear of and read about is very different from that of the Holy Ghost. He never taught, and never will teach, believers in Christ anything that pertains to their life and conduct in this world.

It is presumptuous for any man to say that he is infallible in any respect; no man has yet lived a perfect life, and there is no reason to think that any mere man ever will. And it hardly becomes the imperfect man, liable to sin as he is, to set himself up as an infallible guide. And yet we are so much inclined to think that our way is right and that any way different from ours is wrong.

If we walked closer to the Lord, if we depended utterly on the guidance of the Holy Ghost, would we not be less eager to have our views prevail? Doing the will of God from the heart is all that we need to commend us to man or to God. And to do his will is better

than talking about it. We may not be quite as nearly perfect in God's sight as we are in our own; and just here we must bear in mind that it is not "he that commendeth himself" who is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.

We need to bear in mind that after we have done all we can in the Lord's field, we are still unprofitable servants. There is no such thing as works of supererogation. If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly appear? We shall fare better and have brighter prospects if we keep striving each day to do better than we did the day before. It is only thus that we go on to perfection; and the command is to be perfect.

Many years ago I had a lesson given me along this line. I was in school, a young man who studied and stood well. At the end of a term I told a professor that I thought he should have given me higher marks. He said he had given me all I deserved; and then added that he had something to say to me. Liberty being given, he told me that he wanted me to do better work. I asked him whether my work was not good. He said it was. "But", said he, "you can do better." And that stopped me short, for I knew I could have done better. I had been content to stand at or near the head of the class. Why should I do more?

But here was a new way of looking at it — I needed censure because I had not been doing as well as I could. Many a time since then have I been thankful that I had a teacher with the courage to tell me that I had not been doing as much or as well as I should. This way is new to many of us in the divine life. Paul says: "We dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." Just here is a great danger; we pat ourselves on the back because we have done so well in Christian living, while at the same time we may have let numberless opportunities for doing more and better work for the Master go by unimproved.

We are by no means perfect; we should do all the good we have been doing, and we should not have left undone so many things that we might have done. We fail to look at the model set before us; we forget whose steps it is in which we are to tread; we are so vain as to measure ourselves by some of the weak ones who are striving to enter in, and then we feel proud because we have done more than they. But if they had had our ability and opportunity and we their inability and lack of opportunity, I wonder whether they would not have done more than we have, and we less than they have? We are not wise when we measure ourselves among ourselves, and find in the result an excuse for not exerting ourselves.

We must quote again from Paul. He says in Ephesians: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." There is the measure, "the fulness of Christ." We are wise when we measure ourselves with him and compare ourselves with him, for such a comparison must show us how far short we come of measuring up to him.

The Holy Spirit is the infallible guide, and the Lord Jesus Christ is the perfect pattern. If we faithfully follow the guidance of the one and the footsteps of the other, we shall not fail to arrive in due time at the desired heaven. These are the only infallible guides we have, and if we are deceived by following any other guide, we have only ourselves to blame. The Holy Ghost never guided a single soul away from the teaching of Christ. If we are asked to follow any other teaching, we must not consent, for it will lead us away from God.

We all want to be right, and go right, and do right, and at last reach the right harbor. And there is no good reason why we should not. We have the Word of God to guide us, and we have the promise of his Son that he will be with his faithful ones alway, even unto the end of the world; and we need nothing more. Thank God that we have them.

# THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Cleansing Blood

J. H. Moore

There is no such a thing as sanctification without the blood of Christ, for in Heb. 13:12 we read: "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." It will thus be seen that the blood of Christ, shed for the remission of sins, plays its part in the process of sanctification. Furthermore, it is declared that we are "justified by (or in) his blood" (Rom. 5:9). Speaking of Christ, Paul in Eph. 1:7, says; "In whom we have redemption through his blood." John declares (I John 1:7), "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin," "and", says the writer of Hebrews (9:22, RV), "apart from shedding of blood there is no remission."

This makes Christ, as I John 2:2 puts it, "the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world." Further along in this epistle (4:10) the same fundamental truth is

reiterated: "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be a propitiation for our sins." Or, in other words, Christ was offered for our sins, paying the price of our redemption, thus bringing about the reconciliation between man and God, by having us, when still "enemies, reconciled to God." This is affirmed to have been done in the death of his Son. (Rom. 5:10.)

This is what we understand by the doctrine of the atonement, — the bringing of man back to God, — brought about through Christ, the Propitiation for our sins, who shed his blood for the sins of the whole world, and in whose blood there is remission of sins. And so it follows, as stated by Peter, "that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (I Peter 1:18-19.) Hence man's redemption must be ascribed to the blood of Christ, shed for the remission of sins. Here is the efficacy, and it is in obedience to his command in baptism that we, in a figure, come in contact with the blood that cleanseth us from all sins. It is by his atoning blood that we are cleansed, through faith and obedience to his Word.

# **NEWS ITEMS**

# WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to a two week revival with Elder Robert Carpenter, starting on September 25 through October 9, closing with a Harvest Meeting. We welcome all who can to come and worship with us. Sunday A.M. - 9:30; Sunday Evening - 7:00; week nights - 7:45.

Sister Dianne Heisey

# LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz Congregation is looking forward to having Brother Gordon Jamison from Quinter, Kansas to be our evangelist. Revival starting October 9 and ending with Lovefeast, October 16.

Time is running out. Souls are being lost everyday. How much do we care? May we all support Brother Gordon in prayer and by being there if possible. Everyone is invited to come and worship with us.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1988

October 2 - The Butler and the Baker Dream - Genesis 40:1-23.

- 1. After being mistreated, did Joseph resort to self pity? verse 4-6.
- 2. Did Joseph forget God in prison? verse 8.

October 9 - Pharaoh's Dream; Joseph, Ruler of Egypt - Genesis 41:1-45.

- 1. How long was Joseph forgotten by the butler? verse 1.
- 2. Notice Joseph's attitude (v. 16) and God's response of blessing. (v. 39-44) Luke 14:11.

October 16 - The Famine; Joseph's Brethren - Genesis 41:46-57; 42:1-20.

- 1. What were the meanings of Joseph's son's names? verse 51-52.
- 2. Why did Joseph treat his brethren as he did?

October 23 - Joseph Tests His Brethren - Genesis 42:21-28; 43:1-34.

- 1. Notice the effect of guilt in time of trial. verse 21-22.
- 2. Was Benjamin a favored son?

October 30 - Benjamin's Sack - Genesis 44:1-34.

- 1. Why did Joseph test his brothers' attitude toward Benjamin?
- 2. Had the brothers changed since selling Joseph?

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1988

October 2 - Obedience - Deut. 26:16-18, Jos. 1:8-9, Matt. 7:21-23, James 1:21-25.

- 1. Is hearing and knowing the Word enough? James 1:22, 4:17.
- 2. What is obedience a test of? John 14:15, 21.

October 9 - Prudence - Pr. 12:20-25, Pr. 13:13-16, Pr. 22:1-4, Luke 12:29-35.

- 1. What is Prudence? Pr. 14:15.
- 2. What will a prudent man do? Pro. 14:15.

October 16 - Knowledge - Gen. 3:5-6, Ps. 2:3-5, John 7:16-17, John 8:31-32, II Tim. 3:7, II Pet. 3:17-18.

- 1. Is all knowledge profitable? Prov. 19:27.
- 2. What does the word "simple" mean in Romans 16:19?

October 23 - Cornelius - Acts 10:1-48.

- 1. What type of man was Cornelius?
- 2. What lesson did God teach Peter? verse 34-35.

October 30 - Pentecost - Acts 2:1-47.

- 1. What all does Pentecost refer to?
- 2. Is the power shown at Pentecost still available today?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 19

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MY HEART

Thy Word is a lamp to my feet, A light to my path alway, To guide and to save me from sin, And show me the heav'nly way.

Forever, O Lord, is Thy Word Established and fixed on high; Thy faithfulness unto all men Abideth forever nigh.

At morning, at noon, and at night I ever will give Thee praise; For Thou art my portion, O Lord, And shall be thro' all my days!

Thro' Him whom Thy Word hath foretold, Thy Savior and Morning Star, Salvation and peace have been bro't To those who have strayed afar.

### REFLECTIONS

When looking at a still body of water a mirror image of the surrounding scenery can be seen in the water. The clarity of that reflection is dependent upon the light available and the stillness of the pool. The picture of this reflection can be very beautiful and causes the eye to see the scenery better than when looking directly at it.

If a pebble is thrown into the pool of water the reflection is distorted until the water is stilled. As the water moves the shapes are bent out of proportion. The scenery has not moved although it looks like it. When water is rushing madly from one place to another, there are no reflections only turbulence. Turbulence and reflection do not occur together.

The reflections on the water can teach us a lesson concerning our thoughts, especially on the serious concerns of life. We live in a fast-paced world. There is alot going on around us. Often we are caught up in this rushing world. Since we no longer live in a slower-paced rural society we also try to live on the fast track. There are so many activities we can hardly keep up with everything. There is more to do than we can hope to accomplish within the time allotted to us.

If the important things of life were not enough to keep us moving, we are also subject to the claims upon our time presented by various amusements. Whether sports or hobbies or other interests they also take time and may leave us exhausted. Not only do some amusements keep us from the regular appointments of the Lord's House but they may exhaust us so we do not make the effort needed to get to Church or if at Church we are not able to

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concentrate on the services.

Amusements are entertainment or recreation. Recreation is designed to decrease the stress we accumulate in our daily activities but often contrawise there is an increase in stress due to concern over the outcome of certain events. Amusements are designed to keep us from thinking or musing on subjects needing our greatest attention.

The regular activities of life as well as the recreational activities may combine to deny us an opportunity to reflect upon the subjects needing our greatest concern. Our lives are often such a hub-bub that they resemble a raging river. The turbulence of the river prevents a reflection of the surrounding scenery and the turbulence of a life may prevent a time of calm reflection.

There needs to be a concern that some pebble may be thrown into our reflective pool that will distort our thinking. These pebbles are like prejudices, or misunderstandings that color our judgment. These distortions may cause us to reach wrong conclusions. It may be from an improper understanding of the Bible or some other major component in our lives that causes our thinking to go astray.

Reflection in the stillness, not only of our physical lives but of our Spiritual lives as well, will produce clear meditation on the affairs of our lives. If all is still and expectant, we can clearly see our lives. When we can see our lives clearly, we can make proper decisions. Then we can choose the course that we should take, whether it is a major or a minor event in our lives.

When our lives are turbulent we cannot clearly meditate nor reach proper decisions. When our view of our lives is distorted by prejudice or otherwise our choice may not be the best. It is only in calmness and quietness that the right choice can be reached.

The reflection on the water is dependent on the light. Reflections upon our lives will not be true if there is no light. The light that is needed is the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. All our reflections will be distorted if Jesus is left out of our lives and decisions. We cannot properly discern where we stand or what we need to do, if we do not consider how Jesus would approach the decision to be made. How He would respond is in the Bible. There is no variance between what He would do and what is given in the New Testament. Neither would Jesus do differently than what the Word reveals, nor would the Holy Spirit lead us to do contrary to that Word.

Satan does not want us to reflect upon our lives. He does not want us to suspend our activities long enough to meditate on what we should be doing. He wants us to be in darkness and turbulence. When in those conditions, we cannot properly reflect. Without reflection we cannot do as we should.

Despite the hustle and bustle of modern life, we need to reflect on our lives. We need to make the right decisions. We need the light of Jesus' example and the Word of God. Then we can reflect on the past and present so we can choose aright for the future.

What reflections do you see in your life? Is it calm and quiet or turbulent and dark?

### ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

HOW LONG?

How long is God going to wink at the unbelief of man? We are living in the age of the church. Many people go to church every Sunday and yet they don't believe the basic doctrines of the New Testament. In a survey taken some month back, "Christians" were asked some basic questions on their beliefs. (1) Was Jesus born of a virgin? Sixty percent of the Methodists said "no", forty-nine percent of the Presbyterians said "no" and forty-four percent of the Lutherans said "no". (2) Is Jesus the Son of God? Eighty-nine percent of the Episcopals say "no". (3) Does Satan really exist? Thirty-three percent of Baptists say "no". (4) Was there a real physical resurrection of Jesus? Fifty-one percent of the Methodists said "no" while thirty-three of the Baptists said "no". Certainly the Spirit must be grieved and the Lord wounded afresh with this sad commentary on the Christians of our age. How long? How long will the Lord allow this kind of unbelief to exist in so called Christendom? "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I spake this to your shame." (I Cor. 15:34)

And, in the face of all of this, we are encouraged to just enjoy ourselves as Christians. Enjoy ourselves... while pain lurks behind so many faces and murder smolders in the hearts of men as they sit behind buttons and levers that can annihilate millions. Enjoy ourselves... while the ghettos are filled with misery and junkies walk the streets selling their souls for another fix of drugs, trying to relieve their emotional pain. Enjoy ourselves... while greedy men are consuming and destroying natural resources to satisfy their lusts for wealth at the expense of humanity. What kind of contribution are we making to this planet of spiritually and physically dying people? What will our generation leave the world in the battle for righteousness and the cause of Christ? Will we, too, succumb to the broken values of our greedy world? Selfishness breeds selfishness from one generation to the next. How long will we sell out for personal gain and pleasure?

Our stay on earth is temporary. Every breath that we take is a gift from God. Can we afford to sleep while we are needed in the

harvest field so badly? Christ lives... and because He lives, we can have hope that the flower of love and peace in men's hearts can still bloom even amidst the stagnation of this generation. Listen to the sobs and gasps coming from a dying world. Listen to their despair... they cry out from the snares of the vines of deception and those with the truth are the only ones who can help them.

How can we just enjoy ourselves? Our pleasures will fade into yesterdays if we do not believe fully in the Word and the doctrines contained in it. It is time for seriousness in life and that doesn't just start after age sixty! The world is a pigpen and it is too easy to just let the Church be a playpen. We can't allow the church to become "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked." We can't neglect walking in the light of the Lord NOW.

In another survey from PULPIT HELPS, some well-known theological colleges in the United States were quizzed and ninety-three percent of the students studying for the ministry stated: "I have no devotional life." Can you imagine it? How can a man speak for God if he does not walk and talk with God? How long will we live without faith and fervor for the battle of the Lord? We need to wrestle in prayer with tears and supplications. It is said that David Livingstone would come from his closet with his face swollen from weeping and praying. Would that we could have that kind of concern and dedication in the 1980's. If we don't have it, no one will. And if no one will... "hath the salt lost its savour?"

It is time to leave the prayer breakfasts and get on the battlefield instead of going away just "feeling good." We have had inactive hands long enough and now is the time to fight. Let your hands cling to the sword of the Spirit as you battle against the principalities and powers around us. You have the inerrant and infallible word of God to use and it is indestructible. It took ten horrible plagues to shake Pharaoh from his evil grip of Israel. What will it take to shake us from complacency and spiritual sleep? How long will he suffer us?

Time is running out. God said He will yet shake the heavens and the earth. And even though the web of iniquity is filling rapidly, we can yet be blessed.

Paul's words come ringing through the ages. When all hope of survival was gone and the ship seemed lost... he stepped into the tearful mob and said, "Peace and safety if ye abide in the ship." Get down on your knees, let your prayer go up through the skies and then get out to the world. You have the divine equipment to storm your community with the cry of deliverance. Jesus is coming for His Bride. How long will He delay? For you the race need not seem too swift nor the battle too strong. He will increase your strength

as you need it.

Lord, we need your blessing Give us hearts that care. Great is the need of our people Help us this burden to bear.

Look at our great desperation, Hold back your judgment, we pray. Quicken our love and our witness How long, till you take us away?

Brother Len Wertz

### SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 1, 1928

THE FUTILE SEARCH

Ord L. Strayer

We have recently been reading much on the origin and nature of man from the so-called scientific view point. Reports come thick and fast from expeditions now on the field, of supposed marvelous finds of fossilized remains from the deep recesses of the Gobi Desert in the Orient, where, say scientists, human life on this earth had its beginning. We learn of "unassailable evidence" pointing to the fact that men lived on the earth several million years ago. Several unrelated and widely scattered bone fragments have been made the basis of a model of prehistoric man. This model, a base fraud in its inception, has been accepted as authentic by men of learning in a number of places over our fair land; men whose opinions are respected and are otherwise hard to circumvent.

This search for evidence of man's animal origin was started without malicious intent by Charles Darwin, a scientist of the nineteenth century. It is said by those who knew him that his hypothesis was approached with an open mind and a desire only for the outcome of honest investigation. It is not to be supposed that he had any intention of stirring up such a mad chase to prove his theories. He himself made very exhaustive studies in his line of work, noting his failures and successes with equal care, and summing up his whole research into the origin of man admitted his failure to prove his theories and expressed the doubt that they ever would be fully proven.

Upon Darwin's death, however, the hue and cry was taken up by scientists everywhere and gathered impetus as time went on. Expeditions were sent to unexplored jungles to capture monkeys of every size and shape for comparison with man. Men spent years

in cages, trying to learn to converse with monkeys. Some bright intellect conceived the idea that man had a backbone greatly resembling that of a fish that he must look to the fish and not to the monkey for his primal ancestry. Another takes us back to the green slime that gathers on the surface of stagnant pools, and says "this is the beginning of all life, to this must man look for his origin."

We venture the assertion that not one of these so-called men of science who is so earnestly pressing the work of investigation into the origin of man is honest with himself or with the public in the work he has set for himself. It is our honest opinion that if ever there is a time when scientists think they could actually trace their ancestors back to ape, baboon or gorilla, from that time interest in the origin of man will wane and investigations will cease forthwith. In the meantime our investigators are safe in their positions and need have no worries as to their bread and butter so long as dupes may be found more richly endowed with money than brains to supply the funds.

The question arises as to why this interest in our theoretical monkey ancestors. To prove the various theories would add nothing to the world's store of useful knowledge. We know already what may be done in race development and improvement by parental selection. We cannot think that these men of science who are also high in the "social register" desire to associate with their newly identified relatives found thru the evolution theory. It would prove decidedly awkward, and fatal to their social status to acknowledge such uncouth and uncultured companions. We are forced to the conclusion that these men seek to disprove the generally accepted story of creation given by Divine inspiration. Great publicity will go to the man who first succeeds in the glorious undertaking. Many lecture contracts and published interviews at fat fees will also be forced upon him — temporarily. Financial independence will come quickly to the discoverer of these evidences. It is this hope and the mystery of attempting the impossible which keeps men following that elusive will-o-the-wisp, the hypothetic missing link.

All this investigation is being carried out without regard to the feelings of either side of the controversy. Granting that men would welcome with open arms the thought that they could claim such relatives, could our scientific benefactors guaranty that those relatives would feel complimented over their newly found connection. We can think of a number of individual instances, generally accepted as human, comparison to whom would make any self respecting baboon hide his head under the nearest bunch of bananas. A very incomplete catalog would contain the following:

- 1. The professional pugilist, shifty of eye and foot, bruised and distorted of features, teeth missing, ears and nose scarce worthy of the name. He specializes in cruelty and bloody viciousness. He hammers down by brute force, or is crushed by the opposing force. He is one of a very few remaining relics of the stone age and his labors give men and women opportunities to exercise their elemental blood thirstiness vicariously; with burning shame we admit it.
- 2. The criminally inclined, robbing or murdering at will, protecting his fellows and being protected in turn in his crime. He resists desperately any attempt to curtail his activities. Drink, gambling and prostitution are his stock in trade, blackmail, seduction and arson, bribery and intimidation his tools. He hesitates at nothing, has no honor, respects no one, human or divine. Human rights and liberties are but pawns which he uses to gain his ends.

Time would fail us to describe fully bootleggers, rum runners, confidence men and others inclined to lawlessness, which with the above examples furnish a wealth of material for study by the naturalist and may be found by thousands of miles nearer his doorstep than the famed Gobi Desert, reputed progenitor of humanity. Surely among this rich material for study could be found at least one specimen who could be panned off on an expectant and gullible public as a "missing link."

The theories of evolution now extant, looking toward a single creative act will never be proved satisfactorily because the premise is untenable. God created man in his own image and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. More and more people are coming to believe this because of its fundamental truth and also because of repeated failure of efforts to disprove it. The sooner the futile character of this search is recognized and minds now engaged in it throwed to useful channels, the sooner this great land of ours shall come to the knowledge of God's power and love, turn from its evil ways and seek the old paths wherein our sacred fathers walked.



## THREE THINGS THAT ARE BETTER

BETTER is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith. Proverbs 15:16.

It is BETTER to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. Psalms 118:8.

To obey is BETTER than sacrifice. I Samuel 15:22.

### SATAN

What a subject! Who is he? What does he do? How does he do it? Is he a split-tongued, horned, long tailed horror figure with a pitchfork in his hand? No, not at all, at least not yet.

He was created by God, an archangel of high standing in the heavenlies, perhaps the most beautiful of his angelic creations, the anointed cherub that covereth, and wiser than Daniel. He was even created a musical creature so when he moved about music was given out from the pipes within his being. His jeweled garments gave off a radiant glitter. He gloated in the fact that he was so beautiful until the day he became so lifted up in pride even against his Creator until God could no longer tolerate his presence and threw out he and his proud followers (one third of the created angels) into the earth. So bright was his fall that Christ said "I saw Lucifer" (which was the name God had given him) "fall as lightning to the earth." Luke 10:18.

His ambition to overthrow God had been brought to naught and he found himself on earth where he was determined to still put his diabolical plan into operation by overcoming and destroying God's New Creation upon earth. God meant for man to be a creature of choice. So Satan became the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4); the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2); the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41). He has various names Lucifer, Satan, devil, the old serpent, false accuser, liar, adversary, devouring lion and perhaps more.

The devil, the fallen angels and his slaves or demons are spirit beings seldom visible to the human eye, but very plentiful in numbers and are swift and diligent workers. They may inhabit human or animals, people being their preference as they can do more harm through them and are most difficult to deal with. Demon possessed people are sometimes insane and have to be restrained. In human bodies they use the body to do what they, the devils will — the person seemingly has no power over his own faculties.

More frequently we are influenced by demons assigned to us by the higher satanic kingdoms to travel with us to influence our minds. First they may suggest looking at something sinful, then whisper "that's pretty nice, good or satisfying, then whispers "nobody will know" or maybe "you can afford it" and so forth until you have done something to be sorry for later. The guardian angels also are our constant companions. They, too, whisper "that is wrong", "you should not do it", and so forth. So we are creatures of choice as God intended we should be.

In order to choose rightly we must know God's Word. The more

we study it the more likely we are to choose according to His will and have the blessing the Lord will bestow upon us.

Remember Solomon as a young king choose wisdom rather than riches and because of his wise choice the Lord threw in all the other blessings, riches, long life and peace in his kingdom as long as he lived. Our blessing may not be as great but it will still be great. Things are not always the way they look and we are often led by sight instead of the Lord then we run into numerous obstacles in the future because we did not obey the small sweet voice of the Spirit.

The devil is a liar — Mother Eve was his first target, a good example of his lies down through the ages. He usually mixes a little truth in with his lies to deceive the listener. So he intimated that the fruit was good — no doubt it was good to the taste of the carnal nature. He told her they "would not surely die." They did live long lives, several hundred years, but God's Word was true they did die and that sin brought death to all the earth ever since. He told them that they would become as gods knowing good and evil. Up until then they had no need to know good or evil, but to obey only one command. How easy compared to sorting the good from evil now.

Satan's domain is well organized, his helpers are in orders, each order is given a certain function with a specified individual. If they come short of their assignment they are punished. All devils are liars, but otherwise they can do only what they are appointed according to the permission of God. Remember the story of Job, also of Ahab and the prophets of Baal. They are an organized working group of destroyers without love, even among themselves there is no feeling but constant hatred for one another, for their Creator, God's people and everything good. They never sleep, but they can trouble us and keep us from sleeping.

There are many ways they can influence us: through our enemies who oppose us and do and say mean things about us that try our spirit to the utmost. How do we react? How do we stand the test? Is it in the Spirit of Christ? Or do we react in the same manner as they act?

One of the most prevalent ways Satan can get at us is through our friends who induce us to do evil things the Bible says we should not do, and not to do that which the Bible says we should do. It is better not to have friends than to have friends who influence us to do evil.

The three testings Christ withstood in the wilderness were "the lust of the flesh", "the lust of the eye", and "the pride of life." The carnal man lusts after many things: money, pleasures, sex, food, alcohol, drugs and so forth. Pride, appearance, riches, car, home or many things. In whatever way God blesses us we should use it

to His honor and glory, be thankful and use it to draw souls into His Kingdom. Pride of life, to serve Christ we should never be over desirous to gain the things of this world. Remember we are only pilgrims here, only passing through. Our lives are short at the longest and all the earthly things must be left here to perish. Often inheritances break families apart and causes frictions that are never repaired.

The devil is a cunning deceiver. When the apostles asked Christ "What was the sign of His coming?" His first answer was "Let no man deceive you." I believe we are faced now by the greatest number of every deception that the devil hordes can possibly think up — the cults, the occult, the new agers who are alert by the millions around the world promoting thousands of organizations, peace and aid programs that seem to be for the betterment of mankind, but it is only a mask to hide their true identity and cover Satan's lies. The "peace and safety" the Bible speaks about is in the making to be followed by "the sudden destruction." While the United States and Russia make love talks, and the news media have their hey day about it, it is only a relaxing period for the ungodly masses, while it is a danger signal to the children of God. Religious bodies that once had some Gospel footing are being swept along with the tide and are now promising adulterers, homos, idolators and so forth, salvation if they say they believe in Jesus Christ and have their names entered on the church register. The Bible says these people cannot inhabit Heaven. Neither devil nor man can change God's Word, God's promises are true and sure also God's judgments are true and sure. God cannot lie. Every human being. Satan, fallen angels and demons will come under the judgment of God and be punished according to His Word, in the lake of fire and brimstone.

A common saying today when confronted about certain sins is "oh, everybody does it." Those remarks will have no respect on judgment day. The person who utters such comments and the people who have followed them will hear the same answer, "depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you." The Antedeluvian shrugged off Noah's message too, but it didn't stop the rain.

There will be a religious group of people there who will say we have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and done many wonderful works who will get the same answer, "Depart from me, I never knew you." We are living in an age, that the importance of trying the spirits, whether they be of God, cannot be over emphasized. Learn to know what the Bible says then listen to the still small voice, then if the two witnesses agree we have the green light signal to go ahead. Many things look good to carnal man, but, like Eve's fruit,

the partaking thereof are the ways of death. The penalty may not immediately follow — Adam and Eve lived hundreds of years before death overtook them, King Saul reigned forty years more before his reign ended and death overtook him.

WAKE UP! Time is almost run out. Eternity never ends. Seek the Lord while He can still be found. Pray and fast fervently! Remember the Ninevites prayed and fasted in sackcloth and ashes three days and the great nation of Assyria was spared (according to history) for more than one hundred years.

Great and terrible suffering is looming on the horizon world wide. Only those who are hid away in Christ are safe. May we all strive for the pearl of great price by selling all our carnal treasures and cashing in with Christ. Lord help us!

Sister Ruth M. Snyder RD 2 Box 129 Oakland, MD 21550

### THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Going On to Perfection

J. H. Moore

What we have said so far relates to the beginning of the Christian's experience. Having been born into the family of God, he is now in a position to grow and develop. With him it should be a matter of Christian growth and usefulness in the kingdom.

In Heb. 6:1 Paul says: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection." By "the principles of the doctrine" is meant the things pertaining to the beginning of the Christian life. The foundation of faith, repentance, baptisms, — in water and in the Spirit, — the laying on of hands, and even the resurrection and eternal judgment, having been laid in the hearts of the converts, it was needless to treat these points further, and for that reason the apostles insisted on going on to perfection, — to the higher and more perfect and therefore the more useful life.

No doctrine is more clearly taught in the New Testament than the doctrine of Christian perfection. To his disciples, Jesus once said: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (Matt. 5:48). The Master meant that his disciples should strive for perfection in all things pertaining to their spiritual life. That is, they were to strive to reach the highest possible order of spiritual attainments. Having been born anew, and having been made new creatures in Christ Jesus, this becomes the duty of every converted man and woman.

Writing to Timothy, Paul would have it understood that one

purpose of the Holy Scriptures is "that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." (II Tim. 3:17) Then in Heb. 13:21, it is added: "Make you perfect in every good work to do his will." The idea is perfection in every good work and every attainment in the Christian life and experience, and the doing of God's will perfectly.

James 3:2 says: "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." That is, able to hold the whole body in check, and direct its proper use. This is perfection in Christ Jesus, and is what is meant by "going on to perfection," or, in other words, going on to efficiency, until the whole body, the whole mind and the whole soul are brought under complete subjection, and can be placed at the disposal of the Lord to worship, serve and obey his will perfectly. Nothing short of this should satisfy the highly-developed, spiritual child of God.

### **OBITUARY**

### WILMA MAE BITTINGER

Sis. Wilma Mae Bittinger was born December 17, 1910. Died July 31, 1988 at her home. She was a long time member of the Savage River Dunkard Brethren Church. She was the daughter of the late Salem Edgar and Stella Mae (Wilt) Rounds.

Surviving are her husband, Lester Bittinger; one Christian daughter, Lizetta Rausch, Grantsville, Maryland; nine brothers, Bro. Albert Rounds of Bridgewater, Virginia, Orvil Rounds of Swanton, Maryland, Charles Rounds of Midland, Pennsylvania, Gerald Rounds of Keyser, West Virginia, William Edgar Rounds of Bloomington, Maryland, Ellis Rounds of Alliance, Ohio, Harvey Rounds of Kennysville, West Virginia, Harold Rounds of Tempe, Arizona and Paul Rounds of Frostburg, Maryland and two sisters, Mrs. Nellie Travis of Westernport, Maryland and Mrs. Bessie Kerling of Keyser, West Virginia.

Friends were received at the Newman Funeral Home in Grants-ville, Maryland, Tuesday 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 P.M.

Services were conducted Wednesday at 2 P.M. at the Jennings United Methodist Church by Brother Virgil Leatherman of Littlestown, Pennsylvania assisted by Brother Rudy Shaffer of Lititz, Pennsylvania.

The body was taken to the Church one hour prior to services. Her resting place is in the Bittinger Cemetery.

We wish to thank all for their help and assistance in her illness and help in death of my dear wife. May God richly bless all.

With Love Her husband, Lester Bittinger Christian daughter, Lizetta Rausch

### THE BRIGHT GOLDEN CITY

Jesus has builded a bright Golden City for those who love Him and keep His commandments and go to the River and be baptized there into His number and flow, vow to keep His bidding and walk in His commandments and live for Him here in this world of sin and woe.

When life here is ended He will take them to that Bright City where we never grow old, to walk in those Bright Mansions and walk the streets of pure gold and to drink of that pure River of Life and sing His praises throughout Eternity and walk always in His presence in that Bright City where we never grow old.

Brother Lester Bittinger

### IN MEMORY OF MY CHRISTIAN MOTHER

She was a bright and shining light to me, like the light in a room when you turn it on and the darkness disappears. If you asked a question, why? she would answer it if she could. For I have found more love in her than I did in all the people around here.

Now she has gone to the Eternal City of God there will be no more storms, no darkness, no clouds, no nights and no more pains, no more sorrow for her. This world's labors are done, Mother is gone to her reward in hope of the crown she has won, for Heaven's offer is better than all earth has to offer for her.

For one good-by to her husband and Christian daughter and her brothers, sisters-in-law, sisters and loved ones. No more can we do, for Wilma is departed and gone to her Heavenly Home.

In memory of my Christian Mother, Wilma Mae Bittinger.

Love from your Christian daughter Lizetta Anna Rausch, better known as Liz

# **NEWS ITEMS**

## DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Welcome to the Dayton Congregation Revival Meeting from October 9 through 16. Lovefeast will be Saturday evening, October 15, starting at 4:00 P.M. Bro. Eldon Mallow will bring the messages.

We invite all who may come and enjoy the Word of God with us.

Sister Mary Rounds, Cor.

# GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Goshen Congregation is looking forward to a ten day revival with Bro. Michael Wray from Modesto, California. The meetings

will start October 21 and end October 30. Lovefeast will be October 29, with services at 2:00 and 7:00.

We invite all who can to come and worship with us.

Sister Becky Stalter, Cor.

### ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

We, the Englewood Congregation, are pleased to remind every one of our Communion service. If the Lord permits, our meeting will begin at 10:00 A.M. with Communion at 7:00 P.M. on October 22.

We extend a hearty invitation to all to spend Saturday and Sunday with us. May we count it a great blessing that we still have freedom to worship the Lord.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

## BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Lord willing, the Bethel Congregation plans to have their Love-feast Saturday, October 22, 1988 beginning at 2 P.M.

We invite all who can to come and worship with us.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

## QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation is planning to hold revival meetings October 30 through November 6, and invites all to come worship with us. Bro. Rudy Shaffer of Lititz, Pennsylvania will be our evangelist. Please pray with us that many hearts will be touched by the Spirit of God. (Ezekiel 36:36)

Sister Julie Litfin, Cor.

## THANK YOU

Greetings in Jesus' name to all the Brethren, Sisters and kind friends who sent me cards, letters, gifts and flowers while I was in the hospital. I want to say "Thank You" to each one and may God bless you for your love, prayers and concern. It means so much to me.

In Christian Iove, Sister Bertha R. Saylor

......

We never can reach the top of a hill by standing still, we must keep on climbing.

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

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**OCTOBER 15, 1988** 

NO. 20

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# LORD, IT BELONGS NOT TO MY CARE

Lord, it belongs not to my care Whether I die or live; To love and serve Thee is my share, And this Thy grace must give.

If life be long I will be glad That I may long obey; If short, yet why should I be sad To soar to endless day?

Christ leads me through no darker rooms Than He went through before; He that into God's kingdom comes Must enter by this door.

Come, Lord, when grace hath made me meet Thy blessed face to see; For, if thy work on earth be sweet, What will Thy glory be?

My knowledge of that life is small; The eye of faith is dim; But 'tis enough that Christ knows all, And I shall be with Him.

- Richard Baxter

### **SPECULATION**

The human mind desires everything to be known and well ordered. Men do not like to be surprised. Men want all the answers so they can feel they are in control.

The future is an unknown subject. Men do not want the unknown to frustrate them, so they predict and organize it so they can control it.

Men organize their business and social affairs in the present to control them, so they feel they must have similar control over the future. How much do men actually control their present affairs? Who can tell if they will even be present tomorrow or what the state of their health or finances will be by then? James warns that men must make their plans according to the will of God not their own wills. Whatever the object of their planning they can make elaborate and long range plans, but it is only God who can make them come true. The rich fool, of Jesus' parable, had plans to enjoy the riches of his hoarded harvest but he did not reckon with God who would call him from this world before he could begin to enjoy those plans.

How many have we personally known who were taken from this life suddenly? They were unable to enjoy all their plans for the future. It is well said that "the old will die and the young may." No matter how long one lingers on this earth, even if they live over a century, those years are but a speck compared to eternity. Yet men have set about to plan the future as if they were immortal.

Man so soon forgets his mortality. The wise man tells the youth to know and remember their Creator from their young years for soon they will be among the older generation, who will drop off,

# THE BIBLE MONITOR

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even as the fragile pitcher is broken.

The uncertainties of life ever surround mankind. Therefore they are ever trying to make those uncertainties into certainties. Men have not only tried to control their business, social and material future, they also have tried to secure their Spiritual future. There have been many means used to satisfy men's minds, but all which leave God's will out will prove failures.

Men have tried to secure their future by seeking the favor of God through their good deeds. While God desires much good service from His believing children, all of men's good deeds are worthless if they are but the work of natural men. Men will not be admitted to Heaven on the basis of their good deeds outweighing their bad deeds. Without being converted and becoming an adopted child of God, all of men's deeds are of no value in securing Eternal life. God will not be bribed by men's supposedly good deeds.

Men have tried to secure God's blessings by doing certain deeds of penance. They have lit candles, fasted, crawled on their knees and have done many deeds that have punished the body with the aim of pleasing God and securing eternal glory.

Others have realized the necessity of becoming a child of God but not wanting to face an uncertain future, have invented a theory of eternal security. This will secure their future, eternal blessings without worrying about how well or ill they meet the battles that would come into their lives. These men have ignored or misread the lessons of Bible History which have shown those who were once close to God but who fell away and served Him no more.

Some who have been careful about their relationship with their Lord have also been concerned about their future. Not wanting to leave anything unsecured in their future they have studied out a system of interpretation of the future. There are many different ideas but they are all alike in that each supposedly can predict the future events of the end times and eternity. Using various formulas and depending upon certain passages of Scripture they have developed whole systems showing just how and when every detail will happen.

Their error is not in studying the Word of God to gain an understanding of God's will. Their error is in not depending upon God to lead them into and through the future. Their certainty that everything will happen as they predict many times brings disrepute to God and the Church. Many grow disheartened if their predictions prove wrong and end up giving up the faith because all was not as they thought it would be. Also, those outside the Body are given an opportunity to ridicule.

There are many things that we can know of a certainty in the Bible. All we need to know about the Plan of Salvation and the

Christian life is in the Bible. To strengthen our faith, we are not told all we might like to know about the future. The future is for the faithful who will depend on God whatever may come.

## ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Work for the Night is Coming...

Time hastens on and the burgeoning world population is dying spiritually. The churches of the world are half-paralyzed. How can we be tearless in our personal and church prayer times any longer? There are more souls on this planet who are lost at this moment than at any time in the history of man. We have to feel a personal commitment to soul winning and pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers. We have to declare to this generation that there is hope... and that hope is eternal in Christ Jesus.

Not only is the world lost... but it is disallusioned! We have a big crop of false religions in this country. Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses are growing and they are spreading their false teaching across the land. We are bombarded with cultic doctrines. Sun Myung Moon lives on... almost half of the Hare-Krishna group is composed of young intellectual Jews. Muslim mosques across the nation are filling up and this land is a mission field for heresy.

Isaiah says: TRUTH IS FALLEN IN THE STREET. And we might add that it is fallen in the pulpits also. Preachers are preaching what Paul called "another gospel." Men wrestle with the Scriptures to their own destruction as they look for social answers in the Word and they cripple the faith of others while they are doing it. It would seem that many ministers are happy to be babysitters for believers who are suffering from chronic spiritual malnutrition. Ministers preach that people can have thousands of benefits and goodies if they just believe. This goes on each week and makes these people weak. Instead of understanding that the Christian life is a battle... as the song says, "Soldiers of Christ, arise and put your armor on..." people just live for the benefits and zoom home to glory in their new Cadillac! Jesus fought His fight at Gethsemane and at the cross and we are going to have to bear our cup... to fight the good fight of faith.

The first principle in giving is learning to give one's self. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." Another sign of this time is the ease of giving money to a cause compared to giving ourselves to the cause. There is little sacrifice in that kind of giving and living.

"The whole world lieth in wickedness." (I John 5:19) It is ravaged and bleeding. There is war, famine, inflation, unemployment. Wars continue in Ireland and Afghanistan. Iran and Iraq fight and Poland cries out in bondage. Central America is decimated by

Communist insurgents. In this time of social and spiritual decline... we need to cry out to God. We need not be scared or wrestle in sleepless nights. Rather, we must see these happenings as a call to action.

As long as men are without the gospel, we are going to be plagued with gutter morality. Stifled consciences and indulgence in horrendous violent acts that defy the laws of God will continue. PEOPLE NEED THE GOSPEL. They need us to have input into their lives. Instead, at times, we seem to be ashamed of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation." He, too, lived in a bloody world. The Romans were people of the sword. Against this he fought bravely on. He saw the cross as painful and bloody rather than an ornament of silver and gold. He saw it not as a charm but feared and reverenced it.

How much do you talk about God in your daily work and social life? Do you REALLY expect people to just look at you and know that Jesus is alive in your life? Because you are alive... you have to deliver the word. The life of our nation and the world depends on you. You are an impact individual. You are the only hold against total descent and apostasy.

Consider the glory but also consider the fiery judgment. Let your life reflect on the idea of NOT I, BUT CHRIST. Live and reach out... that He might be honored and exalted; that He might be known; that He might be shown strong. Work for the night is coming... when man works no more!

Brother Len Wertz

# WHO IS RAISING TODAY'S CHILDREN?

We are living in a very different and more difficult day, today, than perhaps several generations before. They had their share of problems then, but their approach was different than today.

Years back, a majority of the families lived on farms, parents and children being together in the home, working together, going to church and social activities together as a family unit. There was strict discipline, few divorces and very little child delinquency.

The church was the dominating influence in the community. Fathers were the providers and the mothers kept the home fires burning, and quite responsible for the early teaching of the children, even before they started to school.

We are living in a different day. Thousands of families have left the farm for city life. This change of living has made unfavorable inroads upon the family. There are a large number of mothers who have joined the public work force. With father and mother both working, child care has become a burning issue in America today.

According to authoritative sources more than 60% of the mothers of children under eighteen years of age are publicly employed. Who will care for the children of these parents when the parents are at work? This has become a serious problem during the 1980s.

Separation by death or divorce, or physically handicapped fathers, REQUIRES THE MOTHER TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT. She is justified in doing so to meet necessary home and living expenses. As a consequence, she needs some form of child care.

There are many women working outside the home for other reasons, to enhance their style of living. Others become a second wage earner to "keep up with the Joneses." Others by force of necessity, such as a death to pay funeral expenses, to help put children through college at today's terrific tuition and many times to help in reducing the mortgage on their home.

It is not the intent of this article to condemn anyone. I have read after many writers on the subject, that I felt it is a worthy subject to bring to the minds of the readers of the Bible Monitor.

Government agencies, large employers and social workers have seen the problem confronting mothers and are taking steps to assist. There are a number of suggestions offered. Some have been proven workable, while others did not prove satisfactory.

First and foremost as advocated by the Christian community is for the mothers to be keepers at home. Titus 2:5.

Many children are cared for in relatives' homes. Some are placed in day care homes. Some parents hire baby sitters. Some children are placed in homes where the mother cares for other children besides her own. Some families solve this problem by working different shifts so that one or the other is at home. Other mothers take in work they can do at home while still caring for their children. Another method of care is church day care centers. Many large employers provide day care for working mothers. Others rely on the grandparents.

The options are many, too numerous to here mention all of them. I do want to refer to one more. That is foster care. Foster care is provided by government agencies. Where necessary, children are taken from the home and placed with another family, they being compensated for their work. This type of care has snowballed from 500,000 cases in 1977 to many more in 1987. And it continues to rise, primarily, because of increasing reports of child abuse across the nation.

Sixty-one percent of the children are taken from the parents because of abuse and neglect. Homelessness is another cause. Of 6,500 children in foster care in New Jersey, eighteen percent came from homeless families. "A family who loses its home also risks losing its children to foster care" states Ciro Scalera, executive director of the Association of Children of New Jersey. Many of these homes are lost because of the break-up of the marriage.

Removing a child from the home is traumatic. Many times brothers and sisters never see each other again, nor their parents. Many children are moved from one foster home to another, as often as ten to twelve times. Thus, such children have no place to call home and no permanent pals or acquaintances.

Dr. Albert Solniy, a pediatric psychiarist was asked if such a child could flourish? His answer, "Only if it's permanent." "Why are foster care children moved so often? There are many reasons. The foster parents tire of the responsibility, because the child may be very unruly, a death of one or the other of the foster parents and so forth.

The problem has become so huge that government agencies have established licensed group care facilities for child care, which is expensive, but perhaps the best solution, because they are government regulated. They provide toys, games and proper food along with responsible supervision.

There is another group called "latch key children". This group is comprised of children whose parents both work outside the home. They may be alone for hours at a time, parents not there when they come home from school. They are left to their own devices, which often leads to trouble. Many instances are recorded where children were hurt, wanderded out on the street and even burned down their homes playing with matches.

Child care is such a big issue that it is very possible it will be a subject of debate between the presidential candidates.

After studying this matter, I believe that the only sure way of curbing the problem, is the Bible way. The father the wage earner and the mother the home maker.

Elder Paul R. Myers 5005 Higbee Avenue, N.W. Canton, Ohio

# SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 15, 1928 FEAR NOT

J. F. Britton

In Luke 12:32, Jesus in figurative terms says: "Fear not, little flock: for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." In the 31st verse Jesus remonstrates with his disciples about being anxious about temporal and material things, and urges

them to be deeply in earnest and concerned about their spiritual welfare.

On the eventful and awful night on the Sea of Galilee, when by reason of a terrific storm that had gripped that little ship in which Jesus was quietly sleeping, and with a vehement force was tossing that ship to and fro, that created great fear and consternation with his disciples, that they came, and awoke him and said unto him, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" And He, who hath all power in Heaven and earth, arose out of his peaceful rest and sleep, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, 'Peace, be still.' And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm, and he said unto them, 'Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?' "Mark 4:38-40.

Unfortunately for those disciples, they were not conscious of the fact that the ship could not be demolished by that terrific storm while the Prince of Glory was on board. The writer really believes that Jesus saw the necessity of teaching those disciples some lessons through severe experiences, in order to strengthen and broaden their conceptions of faith and trust in his providential care and power to protect them through all the storms and adversities of life. So that in the very midst of adversities and oppressions they can hear the voice of Jesus ringing out above the roar of the storm, "Fear not, little flock: for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear! It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, And drives away his fear."

We should take into consideration that there are two kinds of fear. One kind of fear is actuated by intimidation or some frightful object, foe or approaching personal danger. The other kind is actuated by a sense of reverence to God, that one may do, or not do, that which would incur the displeasure of God against them. "Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." Heb. 4:1. This text means we must be faithful and loyal to Him who said, "Fear not, little flock: for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." II Cor. 7:1. And in Phil 2:12, Paul writes as follows: "Wherefore, by beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

These scriptures denote and urge sincerity, earnestness and reverence and pray to God for grace and spiritual strength to obey from the heart, the sacred teachings of Jesus Christ and his apostles, which spells "Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:14.

The phrase, "little flock", is expressive and indicates those who have merited the recognition and favor of the Father. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of the Father which is in Heaven." Matt. 7:21. Therefore, it is plain, and an irrefragable fact, that those who do the will of the Father, constitute the "little flock."

Psychologically it is neither safe nor wise to assume to measure the kingdom of God by mere numbers or growth in scholastic attainments. It is quality that counts with God, and not numbers.

"Numbers are no mark,
That men will right be found,
For few were saved in Noah's Ark,
While many millions drowned."

It is, then, both logical and scriptural to understand that when Jesus said, "Fear not, little flock: for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom," he had in mind a spiritual kingdom, for spiritual people, "whose lives are hid with Christ in God." Col. 3:3. And through faith, love and obedience they live in fellowship and communion with God through the Holy Spirit.

Why should we fear or be dismayed? "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom. 8:31. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear: but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba Father. The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ: if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." Rom. 8:15-17.

Thank God, and praise His holy name, that the Dunkard Brethren are worthy to suffer reproach, and to be abused, ridiculed and misrepresented. For, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matt. 5:11-12.

In the language of the poet, the writer wishes to say:

"Ye little flock, whom Jesus feeds, Dismiss your anxious cares; Look to the Shepherd of your souls, And smile away your fears."

# SANCTIFIED SPEAKING

Psalms 51:15, "O Lord, open my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise."

Ephesians 4:29, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

Ephesians 6:19-20, "And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

While there is much truth in the saying, "Your actions speak so loud I cannot hear a word you are saying," the Bible makes it very clear that what we say is important. In James 3:6 we are warned, "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and is set on fire of hell."

Our opening verse from the Psalms is a prayer that should be repeated often by the people of God. When we realize the soverign majesty of God and our own weakness of being prone to sin we can appreciate the fact that only God can fill our mouths with praise that glorifies him. When we are ashamed to praise God in singing and testimony, when among the Brethren and Sisters, we cannot hope to shew forth His praise when among the unsaved.

Our second verse from the book of Ephesians is a warning for all within the modern church. Corrupt communication is not limited to filthy language or cursing, although these are certainly included. We were shocked when we found out that it is now popular among the young people to make a joke out of violent actions. A series called "garbage pail kids" is available on cards found in gum and other sources. We understand that a television series was to be introduced on this theme. Whether or not the move to protest it was successful we are not sure. If those who protested the showing of this series truly were concerned about violence they would have urged individuals to get rid of their television sets. But we agree that making a joke out of such things as suicide and murder is a sign of a very sick society. The point we wish to make is that out of this type of thinking have come jokes that makes violence humorous and we believe should be avoided by those within the Faith.

When God is guiding our speech we will never make remarks derogatory of an individual who happens to be of a different nationality or color than we are. There would be very little disputing and fighting among those within the true faith if we would allow God to guide our speech. Do we really believe that

God is pleased when the after service conversation is filled with the latest gossip about some Brother or Sister? While we seem to delight in speaking about individuals and their faults and shortcomings do we ever approach them in love concerning these things? If we disagree with what a minister says in his sermon, do we complain to those around us after the meeting or approach the minister? We believe many misunderstandings could be avoided if we would only take the time to talk to one another about our disagreements. Beyond this it is often a matter of misunderstanding what the Brother said or even a slip of the tongue on his part. When we make an honest mistake, we expect others to realize that we are only human but do we show the same consideration for others?

We must be very careful when we are speaking of God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We must never bring them down to our human level or use their name in an unholy manner.

Our last verse taken from the book of Ephesians tells us how we should use our speech. Do we speak boldly when we are sharing the mystery of the gospel? When we come to this issue there remains no room to worry about hurting someone's feelings. We must be willing to speak boldly on such issues as evolution, Jesus Christ being the one way to Heaven and the Bible being the infallible Word of God. The modern idea that we must leave room for discussion and dialogue on these matters is not to be found in Holy Scripture. Of course, if individuals do not accept the Bible as the final authority, it matters little what it has to say on a subject. We must also keep in mind that to speak boldly is not to speak without love. We can bring disgrace to the work of God by unkind speech as well as by denying the reality of His Truths. However, we repeat and stand firm on the idea that if someone is offended by this Truth we cannot compromise to please them.

May God grant each of us the wisdom to bring glory to His name through our speech. We believe He desires sanctified speaking of His people. If your speech is not as pure as you think it should be, pray about it much. If you have never accepted the Lord Jesus Christ and His shed blood on Calvary's cross it matters not how dignified your speech may be. Acceptable speech, of itself, is not a ticket to Heaven. We invite you to join us in singing and speaking glory to His name if you have never made this step.

James M. Hite 816 E. Birch St. Palmyra, PA 17078

### HELL

"Hell" is not a nice word. It is not a nice place either. But it is real. It never ends. It was not made for man, but for Satan and his fallen angels. Men chose to go there because they chose not to serve the true God. Hell burns with eternal fire that never burns out, neither can it be quenched. There is no water in hell, not even a teardrop to cool the tongue. Read again slowly, thoughtfully, prayerfully, the story of the rich man and Lazarus, Luke 16. This is not a parable as some think. The Lord, who cannot lie, said, "There was a CERTAIN rich man," that settles it. Parables are also true and we can see them happening in similar form most any time around us.

As we cannot imagine what a beautiful place Heaven must be, so, we cannot imagine what a horrid place hell is. Worse yet to think of the company that inhabits hell — the final place of the dammed, the infernal regions of fire and brimstone where the final abode of the devil, his fallen angels, demons, the beast and false prophet, and those men and women who love darkness rather than light.

"But the fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and idolators and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death." Rev. 21:8.

So there will be no good thing in hell — no water, no sunlight, no communication with the Lord or His people, no birds to sing, no flowers to bloom, no love, no sympathy, no comfort, no rest, no kind words, just cursing, lying, blaming and being blamed for the cause of the misery each must endure and the memories of what might have been had they heeded the Lord and those who loved and cared. The Master will have reclaimed all the good that was given to them in this life and have given it to the just stewards who did their best in this life to please their Master. Please read again the parable of the talents, Matthew 25:14-30. Then reread verses 28-30.

Our short lives on earth are given to us to prove we want to serve the true and living God, as was intended in the beginning, to prove our desire to belong to the family of God eternally, or to live to the lust of the flesh and serve the powers of darkness then spend eternity doing the things we loved and lived for on earth without end engulfed in the lake of fire and and brimstone.

We cherish the thought that Heaven is everlasting. There are people who would have us believe that hell is not everlasting. But the Bible that says that Heaven is everlasting, Luke 18:30; Mark 10:30, also says that hell is everlasting, Matt. 8:12; 12:32; 18:8; 25:41-46; I Thess. 1:8-9; Mark 3:29; Heb. 6:2; John 3:36; Jude 6-7.

Some people in their effort to cancel out hell try to cancel out both heaven and hell. Then to try to make sure, they request that their bodies be burned to ashes and perhaps spread on the oceans to try to outwit God, forgetting that God was great enough to create man a living being out of the dust of the earth and He can also put his body together again from the dust of the ashes and bring him to judgment to receive the rewards of the deeds done in the flesh.

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Rev. 20:12-15.

It is late! The time is at hand! The choice is ours! The heavenly way is straight and narrow, but not crowded. But many are traveling the broad way. Hell has been enlarged to hold the multitudes. "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure; and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth shall descend into it." Isa. 5:4.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isa. 55:7.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder R.D. 2 Box 129 Oakland, MD 21550

# THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

A Life of Faithfulness J. H. Moore

Faithfulness is faith in operation. In all Christian lands Abraham is recognized as the father of the faithful. God trusted him, and he made good. He believed in God, and proved his faith by the life he lived. The value of faithfulness is recognized in every department of life. The man who is faithful to his trust is the man who is wanted and appreciated.

Jesus was faithful, rendering perfect obedience to his Father. Doing the will of his Heavenly Father, was to him meat and drink. And all through his teachings do we find him, in one way or the other, placing special emphasis on the life of faithfulness. In Matt. 25:21, speaking of the winding up of the affairs of life, we have him saying: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things." Writing to the saints at Ephesus, Paul calls them "the faithful in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 1:1). Then he would have Timothy commit the preaching of the Word to none but "faithful men" (II Tim. 2:2). This, with what is said elsewhere, places a premium on faithfulness.

The Christian who would prove true to the profession he makes, must be faithful to his God, to his Word, to his church, and to every interest he represents. With him it should be a lifelong effort, prompted by love. He serves his God, obeys his Word and respects his church, because he believes this to be the right thing to do, and because he loves to do the thing that is right. Faithfulness with him is not a matter of reward, but a matter of love for the right. To all men and women of this type Jesus would say: "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." (Rev. 2:10)

### **NEWS ITEMS**

### PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

Our Fellowship enjoyed having the Fred Pifer family with us September 2-11, while Brother Fred brought messages of revival from the Word.

Melissa Franklin, Chris Beachler and Becky Winger were baptized at the close of the meeting. One week later, Ben Beachler requested and received baptism.

We praise God for evidence of the Spirit's power working in lives. It reminds us of joy we experienced when we accepted Christ's sacrifice on the cross for our salvation. That joy is ever new as others join us in the cause of the Kingdom.

Pleasant Home's Fall Communion Meeting is scheduled to begin with a 10:00 a.m. Examination Service Saturday, November 12, 1988. We are expecting out-of-state visitors and would be pleased if you can come and bring others with you.

Sharing across the brotherhood is an important way of visualizing the scope of the Kingdom and fostering unity of the Spirit.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

## GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

"... and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." II Cor. 3:17b.

If God permits, the Grandview Congregation plans to have Bro. Allen Eberly as their evangelist from November 13-20, 1988. We

will have our usual examination and communion on Saturday; and morning and afternoon services on Sunday, the 20th. May we be enriched in Hm who bought us.

Everyone welcome.

Sister Mary Lou Kasza

### SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation had a very nice revival from August 19-28. Bro. Paul Hartz was the evangelist. On August 27 we had a very nice Lovefeast and on August 28 we had dinner on the grounds.

Sister Jennifer Snyder, Cor.

### PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation will have a Lovefeast November 12, 1988. Services will begin Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Come and worship with us.

Sister Eileen Broadwater, Cor.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

There are four more titles available in the series of booklets of poems written by Sis. Irene Stout. These titles are: Poems of Meditation, Poems of Encouragement, Poems with Food for Thought, Poems of Rejoicing. The proceeds from the sale of these booklets will go to the Church. Please order from the Editor.

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (Act of August 12, 1970; Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code). Showing the ownership, management and circulation of The Bible Monitor, published semi-monthly at Wauseon, Ohio 43567, October 1, 1988.

- 1. The names and addresses of the editor, publishers, and owners are: EDITOR, Milton Cook, 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223; PUBLISHER, Glanz Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, OH 43567; OWNER, Dunkard Brethren Church, 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.
- 2. There are no stockholders, bond holders or other security holders.
- 3. The average number of copies per issue distributed by mail and otherwise the previous twelve months was 1,373.

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1988

November 6 - Joseph United With His Brethren - Genesis 45:1-15.

- 1. What allowed Joseph to have the attitude shown in v. 5? Matt. 5:39.
- 2. Notice Joseph's attitude and forgiveness in v. 8.

November 13 - Joseph Sends for His Father - Genesis 45:16-27; 46:1-34.

- 1. Notice God's promise in Prov. 16:7 is seen in Gen. 45:5, 8, 16-19.
- 2. How many Israelites went to live in Egypt? v. 27.

November 20 - THANKSGIVING - II Cor. 9:1-15.

- Is there a relationship between our THANKSGIVING and our GIVING?
- 2. How should we show gratefulness?

November 27 - Joseph Presents Jacob to Pharaoh - Genesis 47:1-34.

- 1. Apply Prov. 22:1 to Joseph and his family.
- 2. How was Egypt blessed by the life and presence of Joseph?

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1988

November 6 - The Sorcerer - Acts 8:9-25.

- 1. What was/is a sorcerer then? today?
- 2. What did Simon try to buy with money? v. 18.

November 13 - Dorcas - Acts 9:36-43.

- 1. What was Dorcas known for?
- 2. For what will we be remembered?

November 20 - THANKSGIVING - Ps. 118:1-29; Ps. 136:1-4; Rom. 1:21; Col. 3:12-17.

- 1. How do we show our gratefulness to man?
- 2. How can we show our gratefulness to God?

November 27 - The Unknown God - Job 5:8-18, Ecc. 3:1-5, Acts 17:22-31.

- 1. Why do people worship unknown gods? Acts 17:23.
- 2. Do we "ignorantly" worship any unknown God?

Paul Stump 10340 N. Diamond Mill Union, OH 45322

(USPS 054-780)

# **BIBLE MONITOR**

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NO. 21

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

Each day I'll do a golden deed, By helping those who are in need; My life on earth is but a span, And so I'll do the best I can.

To be a child of God each day, My light must shine along the way; I'll sing His praise while ages roll, And strive to help some troubled soul.

The only life that will endure, Is one that's kind and good and pure; And so for God I'll take my stand, Each day I'll lend a helping hand.

While going down life's weary road, I'll try to lift some trav'ler's load; I'll try to turn the night to day, Make flowers bloom along the way.

- William M. Golden

### ADDICTION

When we think of addiction we usually think of the alcoholic or drug addict. We see in such people a weakness. They seem unable to resist the lure of the bottle or the high of drugs.

Some have excused their behavior by claiming their addiction is a disease they have no control over. This excuse deprives them of any desire to overcome it for they have no hope if it is a disease. Drunkenness has been a problem throughout history. The Bible contains many warnings concerning the drunkard's eternal destiny. There were also drug users in the time of Jesus. They knew of pain killing and mind-dulling drugs, they even offered Jesus such a drug when He was on the cross, but He refused it. It was with a clear mind that He suffered the burden of men's sins. He could clearly realize the barrier between He and His Father brought by that sin load.

Addiction may be more widespread and nearer home than we would like to think. There are many drugs which can relieve so many of our physical and mental conditions. There are antibiotics to rid us of infections, analgesics to overcome pain and other drugs to relieve other conditions. These drugs which seem like miracles when they are needed may become disasters when they are over used. It is easy to become dependent upon them when sick, then not give them up when the illness is over. This is especially true of pain medications and anxiety relievers. The fear of pain or anxiety can overcome the fear of addiction.

A person can become addicted to these benign drugs without realizing it. The symptoms of addiction are not dramatic but the continual use of a drug will have some effect. The realization of the

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addiction may not come until the medication is stopped. Then the effect of the drug becomes noticeable by its absence. The break from the drug may be quite uncomfortable, physically and emotionally.

While addicted to a benign drug, the user will often criticize those who are addicted to popularly abused drugs. The difference between these addictions may lie mostly in the drugs chosen to use and abuse. The abused drugs may be more dramatic in their effect upon the body, often causing death. Addiction to benign drugs may not cause dramatic results, but there must be some results, however mild or temporary.

Addiction to drugs, whether dangerous or benign, is another manifestation of habits, active in our lives. We all have habits. They are a part of our living. Some are good, while others are bad. Habits are made from actions that are repeated a few times. Those actions soon become so comfortable that they are repeated without being realized. Taking a drug becomes a habit, when after using it a few times to overcome some particular ailment, we begin to use it even if the ailment is not present but we think it might appear. Soon there is no need for even an excuse, the habit is established.

Realizing how easy it is to establish a habit, we need to guard our lives so we do not develop habits that may cause serious problems in our bodies and minds. Sometimes physical and mental conditions dictate taking these drugs. That addiction may be less damaging than the condition being treated. But often the addiction is an emotional crutch. Because of fear, worry, stress or pain the drug becomes a way of escape.

The effects of an addiction can be far-reaching and often unnoticed by the user. There may be not only physical symptoms but also personality changes, such as hyperactivity, anger, or depression.

When medical and mental conditions demand the continual use of certain drugs, the user should be thankful for the results of modern scientific study and drug development. Without God's order in the human body such study would be fruitless.

Many conditions may demand only occasional use of certain drugs. Other emotional or supposed conditions demand no drug use, but a facing up to facts. Determination is needed to not depend on drugs to disguise a Spiritual problem by treating only an overlying physical problem.

The pressures of today's society causes many problems. The Christian has resources to overcome these problems. The Christian may need physical help at times, but has Spiritual resources which can keep him from addiction.

Is your greatest resource in a bottle or in Heaven?

## IRREPARABLE MISTAKES

Peter, in the wrong crowd, when Jesus was on trial, swore that he never knew Him. When Peter saw Jesus look his way, remembering Jesus' words that Peter would deny Him, went out and wept bitterly. Matt. 26.

Ahab, coveting another's vineyard, gave permission to his wife to have the owner killed. He claimed the vineyard as his own. He heard his funeral preached in the following words, "In the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth, shall the dogs lick thy blood, even thine." I Kings 21.

Ananias and Sapphira, in order to retain more money they received on the sale of a possession, lied to the Holy Ghost regarding the sales price. They forfeited their lives because of the lie. Acts. 5.

Adam and Eve, because they ate of the forbidden fruit, brought sin, suffering, shame, disgrace and death upon themselves and the human race. Genesis 3.

Achan, for a garment he could not wear, and silver and gold he had no way of spending, paid a tremendous price including all his possessions, his family and his life. Joshua 7.

Judas Iscariot, for the trifling sum of thirty pieces of silver, betrayed his Lord with a kiss. Realizing he had sinned, trying to return the money, but could not, he went out and hanged himself. Matt. 26.

Lot's wife, not wanting to give up earthly things, looked back one more time at Sodom and turned into a pillar of salt. Genesis 19.

King Herod, because he was willing to please a wicked woman, offered the daughter of Herodias anything she would ask. She asked for John the Baptist's head. He fulfilled her request, but was SORRY for making such an offer. Matt. 14.

David, because he found pleasure in another man's wife, left for posterity, an example of his life, which included adultery, shame and tears, boldly written for all to read. II Samual 2.

Esau, to satisfy one day's fleshly lusts, lightly valued his birthright, thereby forfeiting his right to the ancestry of Christ. Genesis 25.

Samson, for allowing himself to be seduced by Delilah, wist not that the Lord was departed from him. Judges 16.

The price some people have paid for their unwise decisions are recorded time and again in God's Holy Word.

We each should pray to God for sufficient wisdom, that we do not make similar mistakes in our own life.

Elder Paul R. Myers 5005 Higbee Ave., NW Canton, OH 44718

# THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psa. 23:4. This scripture is often referred to as physical death. This I believe is one Biblical meaning to the phrases, but it is also more than that. It may, and often is a death to carnality in people through the bitter trials and humbling experiences which the saints experience to try them whether they be true and workable clay in the Potter's hand, or refuse clay that cannot be made into a valuable vessel fit for the Father's use.

David experienced this valley of the shadow and knew whereof he spoke. David was tempted and tried beyond our imagination, but each trial and repentance brought him nearer to his God, until he recognized God in every happening and undertaking of his life. His soul had been put through the furnace of affliction until he was truly a piece of workable clay in God's hands. He had gone through the shadow of death to carnality in all its forms, through lessons in humility until he could come humbly before God and his fellowmen. All trace of greed, lust, and pride had vanished until he was recognized by God as a man after His own heart.

I believe Job was a perfect man of great wealth, great power, and great prestige. But by the time he came through the shadow of the valley of death, Job realized he was only a frail human being that could do better. He, too, became as a lump of clay in God's hands as one gone through the valley of the shadow with a banquet set before him to enjoy with all his family and friends yet still in this world.

Many people who have traveled this path throughout the ages have found a table set before them in the end. As a few examples: Joseph who went through many trials of rejection to the prison dungeon of heathen sun-worshipping Egypt to emerge as the second ruler in Egypt, and was also adored by his family of friends instead of enemies, who had sold him into Egypt. Also Daniel and the three Hebrew children of royal seed from Israel carried away from their beloved land whose parents and relatives were probably destroyed, and were taken to Babylon to live in a land of sun worshipers, to go through the fiery furnace and the lion's den to later become heads in the government of great Babylon. They stood the test and a rich table was spread before them. They obeyed God and God preserved them. Jesus said "seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. How true! The same promises extend to us today. Many could be named who have transversed this lonely valley of the shadow and have emerged on the other side with God's blessings. As we pass through this lonesome valley we can learn to love His rod (discipline) and His staff (His Word) and even become thankful for the trials that cleanses us from all desire to do evil. David goes on to say, "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Then the Lord sets a table of blessing, that sends us on our way truly rejoicing in heart and soul with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. (Thou anointest my head with oil). Then surely our cups runneth over.

Satan is now challenging God and man possibly more than ever before. He is employing every means of the satanic throng to deceive and work wickedness of every sort and description through the use of his fallen angels, demons, his twice educated anti-christ, our enemies and friends by deceptions, hatred, evil friendships, lust, envy, hatred, idolatory and every evil thing. Daily study of the Bible, reading God's commandments and daily examinating ourselves will help prevent us from falling victim to his devices. "Sin is the transgression of the law," and "the law brings us to a knowledge of sin." "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," "to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it is sin." "The wages of sin is death."

Therefore when the Lord calls us to cross the lonesome valley alone (satan does his utmost to take away our encouragement from every source even as he did Job's wife, family and friends). We can be sure God is ready to prepare a sumptious blessing for us if we are faithful. God bless and strengthen us all spiritually and physically to be able to cling to the Lord and resist Satan in this time of the beginning of man's judgment day.

In His service Sister Ruth M. Snyder

# ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Modern ZEALOTS....

We need spiritual zealots today because we are living in a day of weakness in most church members. A zealot is willing to sacrifice everything for the cause and we are required to do that for the cause of Christ. We serve a mighty God who can do anything. He can do anything but fail. The land is full of tramping feet of doomed souls that are marching toward a never-ending eternity... and they seem oblivious to His existence. It is time that we put down the clean clothes of safety and don the tattered, sweaty mantle of Elijah.

The Church has grown flabby while people have slept in the pews. It has become easy to allow our cold consciences to accept the happenings of the days rather than have them buckle our knees. What excuses will we use when we stand before the Lord

and try to justify our lack of enthusiasm for Christian living? How will we justify taking it easy rather than letting His fire burn within us? Heretics fight zealously against right and we seem to have amnesia... and the church sleeps on.

We can have zeal because the ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD can unlock the dumb tongues, open deaf ears, put vision into sightless eyes and remove the devil from our lives. He gives us power and vision that exceeds our imagination if we depend totally on Him. Yet, we remain incredibly slouthful and lacking. The Bible teaches us that "While men slept, the enemy sowed tares in the field."

A spiritual revival is imperative to get us out of our inertia and make our spirits hot. We are living in a time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken in order that the Antichrist may make his entry and offer some sort of stability. Educated man has created a world that sits on a time bomb of atomic power. We need to be zealous in our service.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL had a front page article which had the sub-title, "An Evangelical Revival Is Sweeping the Nation, but with Little Effect." This type of propaganda is tragic... but all too true. It is a little like saying that an earthquake measuring 9.5 on the Richter scale traversed across America and no one felt it. Where are we? What is our spiritual temperature? Are we just remaining babes year after year or are we becoming mature zealots in the service of the King? Spiritual impotence will not lead to victory.

I often feel people have an attitude today of "relax and be reptured." Paul stormed the gates of hell and cried out about pressing toward the mark and we lope along in complacency. There has to be an open season on our smugness and amnesia. We have to get up from the pews and get out on the battlefield. "Who will rise up against the evildoers or who will stand up for me against iniquity?" (Ps. 94:16)

The early Christians came from the "Upper Room" as zealots to invade the world for the Lord. Now it seems we are the invaded instead of the invader. These people didn't depend on a "moral majority." They depended on a holy minority. They had a passion... an unction of the Spirit of God to minister to the suffering people around them. There was no self-sufficiency. There was just positive action and apostolic piety.

What has our impact been on those around us? Just a few Christians in the early church "turned the world upside down." Now we have the media and all the educational aids that go with this age and we have little or no impact. Why is it that we feel that our only hope is to grow from within? To me that is a cop-out

attitude. We are the salt of the earth... not just the salt of the church. Have we lost our savour, our zeal?

We need zealots today... Spirit-born, heaven-directed, earth-shaking and hell-robbing people who understand that Christ and salvation are the most important things in the world. We need people who will shout from the housetops because "there is no knowledge of God in the land." (Jos. 4) Will you accept this challenge to a zealot life? Rebel against stagnation and break the bondage of complacency. Hope is not gone. God still cares and Jesus saves. March up Zion's Hill with hope and joy in your heart. With God being for you... you cannot fail.

Brother Len Wertz

# SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 1, 1928 THE DRESS Samuel Hall

We hear so much nowadays about the dress, that there is nothing to the dress, it does not make any difference how you dress, just so your heart is right. Now if we want to do like the world, act and dress like the world, there is where our heart's desire is. Now let us take Jesus' word, where he says in Matt. 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." If your treasure is not in acting and doing like the world, why is it that you do so? Now let us go back to the children of Israel and see if there was not something in a sign, when God told Moses to tell the children of Israel to put blood on the lintel and two sides of the door posts, so when the angel came along to smite the first born of Egypt, that by the blood being on the door posts of the houses of Israel the angel knew not to enter the house. If Israel had not obeyed and put the sign on the posts, what would have happened to them that had not obeyed? Then some will say there is nothing to outward appearances, so let us go a little farther in God's word and see what it has to say. Let us look at I Cor. 6:19-20, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you which ye have of God, and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." Now if we are God's children, we have no right to tolerate the fashions and amusements of this world. Now let us look at II Cor. 6:16-17, "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye

separate, saith the Lord. And touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." What a beautiful promise we have here if we will do what he says. But if we will not do, we do not have the promise of being his son and daughter. Now let us look again at God's word to see. (Rom. 12:1-2) "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service." God in old times when a sacrifice was to be offered it was to be without spot or blemish in any way, and when we think of the sacrifice that God offered for our sin. The loving Saviour, Christ Jesus. How pure and holy our bodies ought to be for God to dwell in: "And be not conformed to this world. But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may know what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." We are not to be like the world; we are different because the word says so; so let us obey what it says and be on the safe side with God and Jesus our Saviour. Let us look a little farther and see what the word says. (I Tim. 2:9-10; I Pet. 3:3-5.) Now let us look what happened in Matt. 22:11-12. "And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment. And he saith unto him, Friend, how comest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless." I do not wonder one bit about why he was cast out, because he knew what was required of him before he went to the supper, and to go unprepared and try and be one of the guests and not comply with the words, it does not make me wonder about it. That is what is going to happen in that day of all days. Now go with me to John 2:15-17 and read prayerfully and carefully and see what is required of us there; see if we are coming up to these scriptures and if not it is high time we are getting busy and obeying. Now go with me to Rev. 3:4, "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy." As we look out over the broad land and see the way humanity is going it makes us wonder it can be said of us as it was said of Sardis that there are a few that have not defiled their garments. Dear Brethren and Sisters, let us read, live and obey God's word so when the great shepherd, Christ Jesus, comes that we will be ready to meet him because he said he will divide the sheep from the goats and place the sheep on the right and the goats on the left. Now which side do you want? You can choose either side, but be careful that you choose the right, and if you choose the right, we do not know that we will be permitted to spend eternity in that beautiful city that God has prepared for all that do his commandments, but if we do not what he tells us in his blessed book we will be permitted to spend

eternity in hell with the devil and his angels where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth throughout all eternity. That sure will be an awful place to be. As there are many more scriptures in the Bible on the garment, I thought I would give you a few of them to study and think of what is required of his children. May God's blessing rest and abide with us all, that we may be willing to do his will and not ours.

# **JEALOUSY**

Jealousy has caused much sorrow and suffering among the human family. We have the record in God's Word, soon after the creation of man and woman, of two brothers, Cain and Abel. Because Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, because Abel had faith in what he had done, Cain became jealous to such an extent that he slew his brother Abel. This must have made sad hearts for their parents.

God's Word says jealousy is cruel as the grave. Jealousy is the rage of man therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance neither will He rest content. When Joseph's brethren saw that their father loved Joseph more than all his brothers, they hated him and became jealous and spoke about slaying him. Afterward they decided not to kill him but sold him to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver. He was brought into Egypt. In the parable of the prodigal son Jesus tells of a certain man who had two sons. One wandered away and when he came back the father was happy and rejoiced, but the elder brother was made sad and jealous.

Jealousy has caused very much sadness and suffering since the creation of the earth and is existing in our time. Enmity causes jealousy. The two evils work together and are closely related. Jealousy is the work of the flesh and the carnal mind. In the flesh there is no good thing. We should overcome self and the carnal mind, for the flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh. It has destroyed love, peace and union in families, churches and among people everywhere.

Often times people are overcome by it, when they see someone else is more prosperous in life's pathway than they are. We have seen in our time where jealousy existing among families has brought much sadness to parents. Let us not be desirous of vain glory. The word, "jealousy" contains a large variety of thoughts. "Apprehensive of being displeased by a rival, revengeful of some one superior, earnestly and anxiously suspicious of others is respected or loved more than ourselves, suspiciously fearful or vigilant that passion or peculiar uneasiness which arises from fear of the affections of whom we love, a fear that others will enjoy some

advantages which we desire ourselves, eager for information, an inquisitive of others progress or prosperity."

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the wise men came and asked, "where is the king of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east." King Herod became jealous and told the wise men to seek diligently for the child and when ye have found him bring me word again that I may come and worship him. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to King Herod they departed into their own country another way. Joseph took the young child, Jesus and his mother and fled into Egypt for Herod sought the young child to destroy him. When Herod saw that he was mocked of the wise men he was exceeding wroth and sent forth and slew all children that were in Bethlehem and all the coasts there in from two years and under according to the time. This caused much suffering, moaning and weeping at that time. What a terrible unmerciful deed was committed through jealousy. Joy and happiness cannot exist among people, where there is jealousy.

It is one of Satan's tools, that he uses to keep or turn people from the way of truth and righteousness. He uses his deceitfulness in many ways and has, and now is, winning many victories within the human family.

Let us not miss the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus because of being overcome by the evil of jealousy. Those who accept Christ shall receive the light. See that ye walk circumspectly not as fools but as wise redeeming the time because the days are evil. Evil men do not understand justice, but the righteous understand all things. Heaven is a place of supreme happiness where jealousy is done away with and love and peace will never die.

Brother J. F. Marks 901 Chambers Road York, PA 17402

# **CULTS! FACT OR FICTION**

Steve Jensen

A growing concern throughout the United States not only with law enforcement, but also should be a concern of every parent, is the increasing number of satanic cults that are presently practicing and recruiting our youth.

To see what, where and how we are being confronted by these cults, we need only go to our local book stores to find numerous publications that not only tell what cults are, but also how to practice the different rituals. From there, travel to your record store where you'll see how many satanic symbols on the covers of their albums and you'll hear ritual chants worked into their music.

Thus, your children may like to listen to hard rock music and not realize that it may be causing ill effects on them. Finally, go to the local movie theatre where even some of the more entertaining movies have hints of satanic cult rituals.

We, as parents, cannot close our eyes to these facts or think that it can't happen to our children. First, if you have teenage children in your home, make yourself aware of the different cults that are possible in your area, and openly discuss them in advance with your children. Remember, most cults recruit members in their teens. They look for the young, impressionable and troubled individuals.

Second, keep open communications with your child. Do not destroy any cult material you find, but instead discuss it with your child. Point out the psychological techniques used by cults and how they manipulate potential recruits into settings that will work to the advantage of the cult.

Third, continually remind your child that you love them. Allow them to have a voice in family decision making. Remember, not every person recruited by cults join. The "Street Wise" individuals are separated out, as only those who are idealistic, submissive and emotional are asked to join. If you continuously have open communications, show love and open support of your child, they will not feel this need to search elsewhere for it.

And finally, watch for abrupt emotional changes in your child; changes in school study habits, friends, values and goals; unusual interest in books on satanism; excessive obsession with certain rock music groups; and a preference to be alone; meditation; changing, use of new vocabulary, and so forth.

If the conversation does take place between you and your child:

- 1. DO NOT PANIC. Show interest and love.
- 2. Do not give the child money.
- 3. Do not demean the cult leader. Get as much information on the group as you can.
- 4. Seek internal support from other family members.
- 5. Seek outside support from professionals, who are aware of the cult phenomena including your local law enforcement.

Today, as police officers, we too must be aware that these cults are present and look at each crime scene carefully, taking note to any unusual items, symbols or material that may be left at the scene. Remember, cults may be into using drugs, child abuse, human sacrifice and forms of mind control to keep their member from defecting.

When investigating a youth suicide, take note of everything present, from posters and books, to the music the child listened to.

Don't just pass it off as a misunderstood or problem youth.

To better understand the amount of cult activity that you may have in your area, check with the local libraries and book stores. Be aware of the symbols used by cults and watch for the appearance of graffitti or tattoos on suspects.

We as parents and law enforcement must work together to make each other better aware of the problems that face our youth. We must work together to better understand our youth and their needs both spiritually and mentally.

Selected by Sister Shirley Jamison

# BE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY

"... and be clothed with humility..." I Peter 5:5.

One of the great difficulties involved in Church work is that we have more leaders and fewer followers. What God's Church needs is more workers who will go anywhere and do anything for the Kingdom of Christ. Where are those who will do the lowest of jobs and consider it a blessing? Those who do the dirty jobs will be rewarded with greater tasks in the future.

So many who vie for the leadership positions are only there for the momentary glory that man bestows upon us. The scriptures tell us to lay up treasure in Heaven, to please God rather than man. It is easy to see who those people are who only do the work of the church in order for men to recognize their accomplishments. Unfortunately, these people think that no one is wise to them. The pharisees of old fooled a few people, but not everyone. They were the chief enemies of Jesus, and He spoke much against them.

God knows that we need leaders. We need good leaders: men who have had their hearts washed in the Blood of the Lamb. Men clothed with humility whose greatest desire is to do the will of the Father in Heaven. May God bless them and help them.

But those leaders, without humility; there for the loaves and the fishes; there for the praise of men: it is they who turn the worldly away. It is they who make a bad name for all good Christians everywhere because of their indifferences to the souls of men. They are proud and haughty, most of all. They are without humility. May God see fit to protect us, His children, from the clutches of those who seek the praise of men and cheat the work of God.

Lynn H. Miller RD #2 Box 561 Newmanstown, PA 17073

# THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Church, the Called Out
J. H. Moore

The term "church" means the called out. It means those who have heard the call of Christ, as well as the call of his servants, to come out from the world and become the faithful followers of their Master. In employing the word, we make (in this work) no distinction between the church of Christ and the kingdom of God on earth. Those who are members of the kingdom of God, are members of the church of Christ, and to enter the church means to enter the kingdom. As Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." This is also true of entering the church. The new birth, as stated elsewhere, is the door into the church.

The New Testament church was founded by Jesus Christ and is the only church he ever established. As a body, it was not formally organized at a certain place, on a particular day and hour, but came into existence as the Master gathered the converted around him. Some of these converts were made by the preaching of John the Baptist, and became attached to the body of Christ in the early part of his ministry.

Referring to the church, in this instance, we do not mean a local congregation, with its allotted territory, officers and regulations. We refer to the general church, of which Jesus is the Head. The church in his, and was purchased by his own blood. To him all saints are directly related, and thereby become and constitute the body of Christ upon the earth. For convenience, and better methods of working, this body may be separated into local congregations, and these congregations may be classed into districts, and so forth. Still Jesus is Head over all, not of one special church, but of all the members, whether in local churches or out of them, for in the spreading of the Gospel among all nations there will occasionally be isolated converts not attached to any local congregation. The eunuch was a convert of this class. But when a congregation was formed in his vicinity, he, of course, was numbered with the saints at that place.

# SUPREME LEADER

A flock of geese flying north Have one who leads their "band." We, too, have a Supreme Leader To guide us with His hand. Just as God gives geese an instinct That tells them the right way, Christians have the Holy Spirit To lead them every day.

We thank God for His only Son, Who sent the Spirit here, Revealing unto us His words And makes their meaning clear.

And so we follow our Leader As geese high in the sky... Submit ourselves to do God's will, Then see Him by and by.

> Sister Irene Stout R. 1 Box 160 Wabash, IN 46992

# **OBITUARY**

# JOHN WOLF

Bro. John L. Wolf, formerly of Taneytown, Maryland died October 6, 1988 at the age of 99, at Hanover Hall Nursing Home where he had been a guest.

Born in Carroll County, Maryland, he was the son of the late George and Maggie (Hostetter) Wolf.

He is survived by his wife, Irene (Harner) Wolf, also of Hanover Hall and a number of nieces and nephews.

A retired farmer and antique dealer, he was a member of the Walnut Grove Dunkard Brethren Church.

Services were held at 2 P.M. Sunday, October 9, at Little's Funeral Home in Littlestown, Pennsylvania, with Elders Virgil Leatherman and Emmert Shelly officiating. Burial was in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Littlestown, Pennsylvania.

# **NEWS ITEM**

# MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address and telephone number of Elder James Kegerreis is: 220 Narrows Drive, Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042. (717) 274-6619.

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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVI

**NOVEMBER 15, 1988** 

NO. 22

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

Scriptural in practice.

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

For the beauty of the earth. For the beauty of the skies, For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies.

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child, Friends on earth, and friends above; For all gentle thoughts and mild.

For Thy Church, that evermore Lifteth holy hands above, Off'ring up on ev'ry shore Its pure sacrifice of love.

For Thyself, best gift divine, To our race so freely giv'n; For that great, great love of Thine. Peace on earth, and joy in heav'n.

Christ our God, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

- Folliott S. Pierpoint

## BEHIND THE WORDS

"Thank you" is very easy to say and is mannerly. A person who does not say "thank you" will soon be marked by society as an ungrateful and unmannerly person. It is expected that a favor will at least receive a word of thanks. If no thanks is given, a person is thought unappreciative.

Since it is so easy to say "thank you", it may become an empty saying. The thankfulness behind "thank you" may be lost. True appreciation and thankfulness go much deeper than speaking two words. There must be a feeling of awe that another would be willing to give to us what we might not even desire. We should especially be thankful to God for all He has given us. His gifts to us include life, health and strength plus all other material blessings. It is impossible to comprehend all He has given us. For everything we could list, there are so many more that we can't write fast enough to list them all.

Thankfulness is more than saying "thank you". The appreciation behind those words should motivate us to live in a way that shows that appreciation. Many times we have contact with those who seemingly do not appreciate what has been done for them. They seem neither to appreciate what they have received from other people or from God.

Like "thank you", there are other words, easy to say, but to be true there must be much more feeling behind them. Another such word is "love." It is a short, easily spoken word. That word may convey alot of emotion or it may be lightly spoken and be berift of the expected feeling. An expression of love may become an excuse for physical pleasure without commitment. Love may

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become a sentimental substitute for the love needed to deal with unpleasant situations. Love may be giving in to the desires of others. True love may sometimes be a tough love that is not afraid to discipline or correct when error is present. Love is necessary to make discipline helpful rather than harsh, but is still able to correct situations in the family or the Church. Love does not allow its recipients to do as they please for a price is demanded for doing what is wrong. That price may be eternal and greater than what the desired mis-adventure was worth. Love can be sweet surrender, when one is willing to submit to another and give up some possession or desire. Love seeks what is best for the other person, whether it be giving or withholding. Love is best personified by Jesus Christ who has given His life's blood to cleanse away our sins and has also established a strict lifestyle for our good. He has sought our best interest in giving eternal life to be accepted and in withholding from us the world's ways that would be harmful to our Spiritual and physical lives.

Another word often misused is "faith." Faith is so important and foundational to our Christian life. Without belief in God and what His love has provided for us through Jesus Christ, there is no possibility that we can obtain eternal life or even a meaningful life in this world. Because faith is so important some have been mislead into thinking faith is all that is necessary to have a Christian life and to merit a Heavenly Home. Throughout the Bible, even as faith is established as necessary, the responsibility of a life fashioned by faith is also presented. All the great and godly men of the Bible were required to live out what they believed. Abraham had to offer Isaac, Moses had to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, David had to meet Goliath and even Jesus had to do His Father's Will.

Faith is the foundation for it is laid upon the Rock but that faith is unknown and unshown if there are no corresponding works. The life of the Christian must demonstrate the inner faith. If the life is not consistent with the professed faith it will be in vain.

"Thank you", "love" and "faith" are similar because they are common, easily spoken words. Behind each word is a need for something weightier than mere words.

At this season of the year there is a need to say "thank you" but that "thank you" must be a verbal expression of a deeper appreciation. Certainly God has supplied very great things for our lives, not only materially but Spiritually. Our "faith" and our "love" for Him should make us truly thankful. We should be appreciative enough that we not only say "thank you" but we feel our "thank you."

Are your words empty or are they full of underlying feeling? Will

Thanksgiving find you with thanksgiving not only on your lips but in your heart as well?

# **ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

"Poverty for Thanksgiving"

We are living in a world that is experiencing severe devastation and as a result of these calamities, there is much starvation and heart ache. Yet, there is a much greater tragedy than these sad events. It is sick Christians in a dying world.

I evaluate professional sports as merely show business. But, could it be that the church has become also just show business. The mighty Gospel of the Lord is many times communicated by extravagantly dressed singers or rock stars and they elaborately stage their production to catch the attention of the world. Many times they are simply attempting to hide the fact that the altar no longer has fire... that preaching has no power and the Holy Spirit is not in attendance.

There is nothing we need more than praying people... full of thanksgiving and those who have experienced a personal Gethsemane and have travailed in the birth pangs of revival. We need people who wrestle against principalities and powers and who become scarred in the spiritual conflict against Satan in this world. There are too many spiritual non-combatants in both the pulpit and in the pews who are in no way a threat to the devil's powers.

We need to feel our poverty in prayer. It is there that we fall before the living God and see His majesty. It is there that we see Him grieving over our sins and the sins of the world. We cannot leave our closets with great sweat on our soul and offer the world of rebellious people a feeble utterance of... "God loves you." He does... but we will also come out shouting that "God is angry with the wicked every day... (Psalms 7:11) and judgment is coming to those who will not stand firmly on His promises. Be thankful that you can enter your closet of prayer in poverty and come out with your eyes blazing because you have heard the word of the Lord in the place of the Most High.

As we communicate about poverty here, we are obviously not talking about inactivity or complacency. We are talking of poverty of spirit and thanksgiving in our soul. We are talking about an understanding that a thankful and prayerful person is contrite in his spirit and humble in his attitude that he may take on the power of the Lord in His fullness.

Prayer... does not demand any special dress. It does not demand any special place. Prayer does not demand eloquence of speech or

special training or scholarship. It never struts and never seeks applause, which is something the entertaining church of the day does not understand. It is probably most mighty when it is most quiet.

Prayer defies definition, eludes explanation and grasps hold of eternity. It strengthens the weak and weakens the strong. It touches the power and the One of the world to come. And... it "availeth much! (James 5:16)

This Thanksgiving season... experience poverty of the soul and experience the power of God. Be thankful for your position and His. Be thankful that you can experience God's glory and majesty. Be thankful that you can have His will revealed to you and that you can dwell in His coming kingdom.

Be thankful that you can be the shiny among the rust... a diamond among the dust. Be thankful for the deity and dwell on His sublime holiness. Praise Him for his matchless beauty and perfect judgment. Be humbled, in poverty, as you ring out in rapturous praises to the King... as you gaze on His face and sing "Amazing Grace."

Don't allow yourself to get lost in your own eloquence of person-hood. Imagine yourself before God and think of your stammering there as you esteem His greatness.

As you communicate with the Lord... how unflattering your social stance becomes. You drop to your knees as you shut the door of your mind to the world and allow no spectators to key into your communication. There are no windows there... it is just God and you. And, God demands our clean hands. We cannot have the grime of greed on them. We can't be grasping for illegal gain. Our desire is pure and our thanksgiving is honest and unaffected by our peers. Shallowness echoes through the halls of our mind and we hear our poverty. And it is here, thankfully, that we are lifted to heavenly places in Christ Jesus. It is here we envision our purpose, our passion, His pleading and His power.

Have poverty for thanksgiving and be blessed!

Brother Len Wertz

# FOUR STEPS UPWARD

Because of the first man Adam's sin, all people are under the condemnation of death. "For as in Adam all die." I Cor. 15:22. "Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come." Romans 5:14. "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation;" Romans 5:18a.

Romans 5:19 states "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

Thus, by God's Word, we gather that all people NOT BORN AGAIN are living under condemnation. Man is absolutely helpless in trying to save himself. Sinful man is on the lowest rung of the ladder of salvation. Once he is aware of his lost condition, he can either chose to remain lost, or he can start climbing.

To live under the plight of condemnation in this life, is living a life of futility. Not only for the present, but for all eternity. To live such a life is truly against God's will. God gave His Son on the cross of Calvary to redeem man from his sinful state. God and Christ have done their part. It is not God's will that anyone perish.

There are three more rungs in this ladder. They are JUSTIFI-CATION, SANCTIFICATION and GLORIFICATION.

It has been stated it is not hard to become lost. Just do nothing toward saving your soul. To save your soul, you must have faith, believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. We must work out our soul's salvation with fear and trembling. The Apostle Paul gives us good admonition in II Tim. 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Paul tells us in Romans 3:10, "... There is none righteous, no, not one." Then, when we have no righteousness in us, wherein lieth our hope? Our hope starts with the next rung up, namely JUSTIFICATION.

Justification is Christ's atoning at Calvary to free us from the blame and guilt of sin. II Cor. 5:21 states, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Through Christ's righteousness, we are justified, that is, made free from guilt. When a sinner turns to God for salvation, through Jesus Christ, he has reasons to rejoice in the fact of his justification. The third rung up is SANCTIFICATION.

The third rung up brings us to a higher plane of living and further away from the world, with all its beggarly elements, is SANCTIFICATION.

Sanctification means to be set apart. Those who have been justified are set apart from the unsaved world. They are in the world, but not of the world.

Jesus, in His high priestly prayer makes this very clear. In John 17:15-17 Jesus prays for His followers thus, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

God's sanctified people are to be separate, distinct and peculiar. Peter describes sanctified people in I Peter 2:9, "But ye are a CHOSEN generation, a royal PRIESTHOOD, an HOLY NATION, a PECULIAR people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." He continues in verse 10, "Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

The sanctified believer yields to the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit. The doctrine of SANCTIFICATION definitely is taught in God's Word.

Once we are set apart and continue therein we become an heir of God and a joint heir of Jesus Christ. It takes the applying of the Word of God which is TRUTH. When we accept Christ in faith believing and obey His Word and are dedicated to His service, and become as a chosen and peculiar people the Bible teaches we are SANCTIFIED.

The fourth and last rung up the ladder is GLORIFICATION. This ladder takes us from earth to Heaven via Jesus Christ. GLORIFICATION is the culmination or highest point attainable. It is the ultimate hope of every true believer. That day of GLORIFICATION the mortal will put on immortality, the corruptible will put on incorruption, the believer will be instantly changed, in the twinkling of an eye.

When we as clay, permitted the great POTTER to mold us to His liking He fashioned a vessel, in His likeness. The psalmist David brings us a comforting thought in Psalms 17:15, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

I John 3:2 presents the state of GLORIFICATION thus, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

Redeemed saints are those who strive, who keep climbing from the bottom to the top rung, climbing successfully from CONDEMNATION, up to JUSTIFICATION, through SANCTIFICATION finally reaching GLORIFICATION.

Brother Paul R. Myers, 5005 Higbee Ave., N.W. Canton, OH 44718

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Little things are like weeds, the longer we neglect them, the larger they grow.

# A BIRTHRIGHT AND A BLESSING, OR A MESS OF POTTAGE

All Bible readers are familiar with the story of Esau and Jacob, and how Esau bartered away his birthright with an oath. Even though they were twin brothers, Esau was the firstborn, perhaps by only a very short period of time. Yet that was enough to give Esau the preminence of a double share of inheritance from his father at life's end. Quite different from today when children are handed or permitted to have whatever they want when they want it, before they have proven that they are worthy, and so seldom become worthy. If they sinned repulsively against their father's wishes, he could annul the birthright and give it to the next in decent even as Jacob annulled Rueben's birthright privilege because of immorality, and Simeon's and Levi's because of violence, then gave it to his fourth son Judah.

Esau had already lost his birthright blessing before the final distribution. Perhaps Isaac was not aware of Esau's careless givea-way, but God knew and He saw to it that Esau would abide by his promise. Therefore there was enemity between the twin brothers.

Many lessons can be learned from these two brothers. Esau would appear as a selfish, greedy, profane, careless, compulsive individual who harbored envy, hatred, jealousy, and murder in his heart. At times in his life he wanted to repent but somehow his old carnal nature was never completely given over to God and he was left with his old sins and his soul was probably lost in eternal flames.

On the other hand Jacob was shrewd and conniving until he met the angel when he had a consuming desire to become acquainted with God more thoroughly and wrestled with the angel until he obtained the blessing. If our honest desire is to follow the Lord He will give us the opportunity and help that we need. But like Jacob the trial or trials may be long and painful. But if we hold on and endure to the end we shall receive the blessing, and in the end eternal life.

I believe every person who has ever come to the years of accountability can be classed in either the Esau or Jacob class. Esau's decendents have been many times more numerous than Jacob's, and so are the lost who have flippiantly sold their Godgiven birthright for a mess (mind you a one dish meal) of that red that red pottage (original Greek repeats "that red"). Only one mess, but what a loss, he could never recover the blessing.

Another sad mistake was his marriage to heathen women, who, no doubt drew him further from God. An ungodly marriage partner creates manifold temptations and departures from God in their

lives and the lives of their posterity. The Apostle Paul tells us to marry only in the Lord. Flippy young people, or older ones either, do not make dependable life mates.

Bad and ungodly company induce well intentioned friends to partake of evil. We are living in the time of the end when Satan is putting forth his greatest effort to lure, deceive, satisfy the carnal minded, through pride, sex, drugs, greed, lasciviousness, envy, jealousy, spite, hatred, murder, crime of all sorts, discouragement, loneliness, false accusations and so forth. As a child of the King of kings we should always be alert that "whether we eat or drink or whatsoever we do, do all to the glory of God." Just one mess of pottage from Satan's stew may start us on the downward road that we might never retrace. Be assured that the farther we travel that way the farther we have to come back and the more difficult it is to come back. I think of the poem "The Church and the World."

Remember, too, that any satisfaction, if any, we get from the mess of Satan's stew is the best he has, or ever will have, to offer us. He is a liar and a deceiver, he knows what he is doing, he believes and trembles, but because he did not make use of his opportunity when God gave it to him, he lost all without any right to pardon. We should be thankful we still have the pardon blessing and make use of the opportunity to inherit eternal life. As the old saying goes "Misery loves company" so Satan wants all the company he can possibly get. Together with his hatred for Christ and his greed for power he is throwing out bait of every description to lure the unlearned and uncaring into a never ending eternity of fire and brimstone that God prepared for the disobedient Lucifer and his fallen angel followers. For them there is no promise except the regions of the damned, the lake of fire and brimstone.

For many years the writer has watched the one-time faithful people of God diminish, parents and grandparents slowly fall away until there is little concern for their children's future until we can identify with Christ when He said "When I come will I find faith on the earth?" But there is help available. Christ said "I am the way, the truth and the life." Will we awake and cry to Him? The day is far spent and the night is at hand.

AWAKE! AWAKE!

Submitted in love, Sister Ruth M. Snyder



Today so many parents seem to know where everything is, but do they really know where their sons and daughters are?

# SOBERING THOUGHTS ON HUMOR

Proverbs 15:13 "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken."

Proverbs 17:22 "A merry heart doeth good like medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

James 5:13 "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms."

Ephesians 5:3-4 "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not once be named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks."

The subject we wish to think upon is quite controversial. We hold in respect those who will disagree with our opinions and conclusions that we wish to share. We pray that the Holy Spirit will lead our thinking but admit to being finite and subject to error.

While we cannot look to the Old Testament for guidance, we have found the first two of our opening verses to be true in our life. When we have felt discouraged or weary with the trials of life a good laugh has often lifted our spirits. We, personally, find it a joy to be around those who have a good sense of humor.

While our verse from the book of James does not address the subject of humor directly, it does leave room for a merry heart. While good humor can be a source of release when we are uptight, perhaps this verse suggests something even better. Perhaps we should spend more time singing together. While this verse suggests singing psalms, and perhaps we should go back to doing that in our worship services from time to time, we believe God is pleased when we lift our voices in good spiritual songs.

Our final two verses from Ephesians brings us to the heart of our thought. Within the earthly church today we find everything from actual stand up "christian" comedians to preachers in the pulpit that feel that they must keep their audience laughing. We will allow God to judge the first catagory but we have an increasing feeling of uneasiness about listening to a professional "christian" comedian. While we do not object to a joke or two during a sermon, we are also uneasy about preachers who tell more jokes than preach the word. We have found that you can preach as hard as you want to against sin and for righteous living as long as you make individuals laugh during most of the sermon. It seems as if the whole sermon becomes one big joke in the mind of most individuals. While we confess to ENJOYING such sermons due to our flesh, deep within our spirit we feel that this should not be.

Are the verses in Ephesians saying that a Christian should never tell a joke or make a humorous remark? If the word "jesting" is

taken by itself it would seem to be teaching this. But we believe that taken within the context of our two verses this is not necessarily so. Rather we believe that Paul is expressing the fact that we should be careful what form our humor takes. It would seem as if there may be some connection between our lifestyle and the humor we enjoy.

Paul names three things, fornication, all uncleanness and covetousness as things to avoid. Many times a young person is led into sexual sins by first sharing "dirty jokes." We wonder if perhaps the same may be true of older individuals sharing suggestive or double meaning jokes when in mixed company? The jokes that we hear on the radio or read in "clean" joke books are often of a suggestive nature. Just because vile language is not used does not make a joke acceptable for sharing. While covetousness does not seem to fit into our thoughts, we wonder if we cannot cover our coveting something someone else has by making a joke about it?

We have covered Paul's warning about filthiness, but foolish talking is harder to deal with. Is it right to tell a lie in jest? We are pretty well convinced that a Christian should not do so. But we find ourselves doing it again and again! Of course, we excuse ourselves by saying that the other individual knows that we are just kidding. As a matter of fact all jokes are a lie to some degree, unless they actually happen to someone. But we feel it is especially out of place when a joke is told using an individual's name when it is almost certain that the individual never was a part of what is expressed.

We feel very strongly that a Christian should avoid jokes that ridicule those of a different color or national origin than the individual telling the joke. We feel even more strongly about jokes that make light of Holy things. Some have portrayed Jesus Christ as a clown. This and similar humor is always out of place.

Spontaneous humor is usually the most uplifting. While we must be careful not to embarrass anyone, we should be willing to laugh at our mistakes. We also believe that there is a correct time and place for humor. Perhaps we should spend more time in giving thanks after a church service than in humorous conversation.

We do not believe the Bible is a book of humor, as some modern teachers are suggesting. Rather it is a very serious book that determines our eternal destiny. Heaven and Hell are not humorous subjects although many tend to make jokes concerning them. If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, please do not dismiss it as a big joke. There will be no laughter in Hell. We do not know if there will be laughter in Heaven or not but there will be real joy.

Let each of us search our hearts and desires to be true to our Lord and His Holy Word. Let us desire that the world will not mold our thinking and condition us to enjoy unholy humor.

> James M. Hite 816 E. Birch St. Palmyra, PA 17078

### SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 15, 1928

HOW CAN EACH ONE OF US HELP TO MAKE THE CHURCH BETTER?

H. A. Throne

Let us all ask ourselves the question, are we doing what we can to help make the church better? Also to encourage the good cause? Are we at our post at each church service, or do we imagine we are not feeling well enough and miss the church service? But Monday morning we are able to be about our secular affairs. Also, are we all doing our duty in trying to keep the church as pure as possible? For the best we can do, we will come short enough. Can we make the church better by permitting our members to go to questionable places such as picture shows. ballgames, and country fairs, where there is horse racing and a number of other gambling games? No, verily, we cannot make the church better by this kind of conduct. What a pity there are those called church members today who aren't willing to make a little sacrifice for the Savior. Then some will say, as the question often arises of the neckties for the brethren, it is so small a matter, why not be willing to make the small sacrifice rather than to offend your brother. This certainly would be pleasing to your Savior. Also, when so small a matter, we should be ever willing to be submissive if we have the love of God in our hearts. As we know what the Bible says about offending our brother. Now, this is Bible. Will we turn it down? Now, for the good of our fraternity, will say the writer has been in business for nearly thirty years and dealt with lawyers, doctors, and the most popular people in cities and towns for miles around and never needed to wear a necktie to deal with this class of people. Some would ask me if I wasn't a Dunkard. And I wonder why they thought so. They would say because you never see a Dunkard with a necktie on. I wonder if we could say this today? Now, this was evidence to me that it is far better to stay close to our profession rather than to dodge it. As if we don't watch the small things, how long will it be till we are swallowed up by the world and

go where hope is a stranger and mercy cannot reach us. How sad it makes us feel to know how many of the strong leaders of the Church of the Brethren that at one time defended the faith of the conservative brethren, or in other words Dunkard faith, so strictly, and now are willing to drift with the world, and are trying in every way to crush the Dunkard brethren's movement and misrepresent in order to block their way. They have said things about some of our leaders that was untrue. So one of these leaders has asked them to come and go with them and they would prove to them that it was a false report. Now there wasn't one that was brotherly enough to do this. What will be the answer on the resurrection morn for this kind of work? It is easily to be seen they don't care for the faith they at one time so strongly taught, and still they will say they are standing on the same old platform they always did. And will permit bobbed hair and immodest dress, picture shows, ballgames and secret orders and what not. Then represent they are the old church with all their fashion and pride. What will become of these leaders at the day of reckoning with their misrepresentation? They will know the Dunkard Church never held forth this kind of doctrine and never would permit fashion and pride in the church. I wonder if there isn't danger of sinning against the Holy Ghost after one time teaching the plain gospel truths and then turning away from it and in every way trying to hinder those who are wishing to live up to their baptismal vow and are taking the stand with the Dunkard Brethren, which is just what Conference stood for a few years ago. I wonder if it wouldn't be far better for this liberal element to say they have changed their minds and don't look at the Bible as they once did, as to represent they are the old church when they well know the old church tried to have some government, and never admitted fashion and pride in the church.

I wonder if the angels aren't weeping over this misrepresentation, and Satan rejoicing? No wonder the good book says, Straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, and few there be that find it. Also, II Thessalonians, the 3rd verse says, Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first.

Now, I would like to ask a question. Who will be on the safest side at the day of judgment, the church and her leaders that will admit worldliness, pride and fashion in the church in order to get more members in the church, or the church and her leaders that will not permit this evil in the church as much as possible? Please answer this for yourselves.

I wonder if my good parents with other parents were to return here at the home church who have been gone to their long home so many years would say if they were to return there to see the change, whether they would say, You have kept house well and by the appearance of things your leaders are very faithful, or would they say for their unfaithfulness should be driven out like the Savior did when he drove them out of the Temple for their unfaithfulness. It appears to me that if the Dunkard Brethren are wrong and the liberal element is right with all of this worldliness and fashion in the church, all of these good old forefathers and mothers are lost. Oh, what can we do to have these liberal leaders to see different and stop in their wild career before it is too late? As Satan is surely blinding their eyes and will have them trapped before they are aware. Il Timothy, 3rd chapter, 12th verse, says: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Therefore let us all pray for those who are drifting off so rapidly, that they may see the error of their ways. Please read the whole chapter of Il Timothy and 3rd chapter. Please read and consider it well.

Now, for the good of those who are in our fraternity, and the many dear friends who are still holding to the Church of the Brethren, which side would you rather be on at the trying hour of death? Also at the day of judgment? The church and her leaders that are putting all efforts forth to keep worldliness out of the church, or the church that will permit all this kind of worldliness.

At one place the Bible says: Straight is the gate and narrow is the way, and few there be that find it. Now, dear reader, don't you think this narrow way will be too narrow for bobbed hair, immodest dress, picture shows and county fairs where the horse racing and a number of gambling games are practiced?

I wonder what will become of those supposedly educated men that will make a statement like this: "That anyone that does not enjoy a movie is sick." How this makes many ones heart ache. Education should get one closer to the Bible than farther away.

Also, to think of the money that was spent to help those colleges in order to educate men so they could go out to teach more plainly the Bible truths. Instead of this they are tearing down what they so strongly taught and laying aside so many of the plain gospel truths and drifting worldwide in fashion and pride, which has caused another division. These men that solicited us, we feel as if they deceived us. They well know where part of us stood, and that we had no money to help colleges unless they would stand for the plain gospel truths. Would like to ask the question, weren't we deceived after we were well solicited and the amount raised for a standard college? Then no longer could they hold the rein. The bars were left down, and because the Dunkard Brethren are just standing to what they promised at the baptismal vow and nothing more. Now then, after so many have been liberal with their means to help these colleges, also build churches. Because they will not

follow them in this fashion and pride they are placing heavy burdens on them, will not share up with the church property where the Dunkard Brethren paid as much for the building as the other side did, and still doesn't have any share or part in this church property. If we were trying to teach something different than what our church did ten or fifteen years ago, we would think different. No wonder the good book says if it wasn't for the shortening of the days the very elect would be deceived. Therefore may we pray for those that one time was willing to make a little sacrifice for the Savior and now are being deceived and apparently are willing to be led away from the plain Bible truths. May they see their mistake before it is too late, as the Bible positively says that we must come out from the world and be a separate people, also a peculiar people.

Therefore, we cannot allow this pride and fashion in the church if we ever expect to walk on that narrow way and be permitted to enter that heavenly home.

## CONCENTRATE

Fill your life with love and living; Live the way God wants you to. When you concentrate on giving, There's not too much that you can't do.

Think about the soul God gave you, And think about other souls, too. Then concentrate on God's goodness And see what work God has for you.

If you obey all His commands, And if you will His precepts keep, Along with saints of many lands, You will be gathered with His sheep.

> - Sister Irene Stout R. 1 Box 160 Wabash, IN

# **NEWS ITEM**

# MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Elder Eugene Kauffman is: 313 Park Avenue, Broadway, Virginia 22815. His new telephone number is: (703) 896-3104.

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1988

December 4 - Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons - Genesis 48:1-22.

- 1. Why was Joseph's second son blessed above the first born?
- 2. Why was the blessing passed in the son's names instead of Joseph's? v. 5.

December 11 - Jacob Prophesies - Genesis 49:1-33.

- 1. Are we planning ahead for the "passing of the spiritual torch" to our children?
- 2. How can we picture a promising future for our children?

December 18 - Jacob's Burial; His Sons Remain in Egypt - Genesis 50:1-25.

- 1. How can we show respect to our parents after they have died?
- 2. Notice Joseph's example of forgiveness! v. 19.

December 25 - THE BIRTH OF CHRIST - Luke 2:1-39.

- 1. What is the significance of Christ's lowly birth?
- 2. Have we presented our children to the Lord?

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1988

December 4 - Our Center of Life - John 4:21-26, Acts 17:22-31, Acts 24:14-16, II Cor. 3:17-18.

- 1. What does our life revolve around?
- 2. Who should be the center of our life?

December 11 - Relationship with God - Romans 8:1-39.

- 1. How do we "dwell in Christ?"
- 2. All things work together for good for whom? v. 28.

December 18 - Second Coming of Christ - Matt. 24:29-30, I Thess. 4:14-18, I Thess. 5:1-6, II Thess. 2:1-17.

- 1. How do we prepare for Christ's return? I John 3:3
- 2. What are we to do while we wait? Luke 19:13.

December 25 - Christmas Story - Matt. 1:18-25, Matt. 2:1-11, Luke 2:8-16.

- What gift does Christ want from us?
- Never forget "Wise men still seek the Son of God!" Pro. 23:26.

Paul Stump 10340 N. Diamond Mill Union. OH 45322

(USPS 054-780)

# **BIBLE MONITOR**

VOL. LXVI

DECEMBER 1, 1988

NO. 23

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

# WILL JESUS FIND US WATCHING?

When Jesus comes to reward His servants, Whether it be noon or night, Faithful to Him, will He find us watching, With our lamps all trimmed and bright?

If at the dawn of the early morning, He shall call us one by one, When to the Lord we restore our talents, Will He answer Thee — Well done?

Have we been true to the trust He left us? Do we seek to do our best? If in our hearts there is naught condemns us, We shall have a glorious rest.

Blessed are those whom the Lord finds watching, In His glory they shall share; If He shall come at the dawn or midnight, Will He find us watching there?

- Fanny J. Crosby

## WATCH

"What time is it?"

"I don't know, but I'll check my watch."

"Who goes there?"

"It is I, but who are you?"

"I am the watchman, who guards the town."

"When do you expect the load to arrive?"

"I don't know exactly when, but I'll watch until it comes, no matter how early or late."

These simple conversations illustrate the various ideas conveyed by the word, "watch." We pull out our watch to see what time it is. Those who guard a city are watchmen. The event that may happen at any time demands watchfulness by those who expect it. Watching implies time, danger and arrival.

Jesus commanded His disciples to be watchful. He combined watchfulness with prayerfulness. He established a duty which included the Spiritual activity of prayer and the physical activity of watching. Watchfulness without prayer may become critical, looking only for error or differences. Prayer without watchfulness becomes a Spiritual activity unrelated to reality. There must be a combination in order to have the balance pleasing to the Lord.

Watchfulness is necessary for our individual and group's Spiritual growth. As members of the body of Christ we need to be aware not only of our own individual well being but also that of the whole body.

The times and seasons are in God's hands; we need to be watchful so we are not ignorant of what time it is. Just as we look at

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our watch to tell the time, so we must watch events around us to tell us what time it is Spiritually. When God created the world and man, He expected all would transpire according to His will. But Adam and Eve did not long continue in His will. Since their fall the world has been on a downward course. Because of the world's poor Spiritual condition God sent His Son as the Redeemer. He offered redemption and a few availed themselves of it. As time has continued and men have become more self-centered and less dependent upon God, Spiritual conditions have worsened. These conditions point to the time in the world's existence, just as the watch tells the time of the day.

Knowing that the world is quickly coming to its end, we should be watchful not only of the signs of its end but also concerning the events of daily living. We need to guard against being ensnared in the follies of the world's sins. There is a need to watch just like the watchman at the city gate. His job was to be alert. He was accountable for the grief that would come to his city if he did not do his job. Spiritually there is a need for watchfulness. Satan has many schemes for diverting individual Christians and whole churches from the strait and narrow way. Satan seldom attacks openly but more subtlely. When his attack was open, the danger could be easier seen, but now it is harder to discern his schemes.

Watching is often accompanied by waiting. We do not always know the exact time an event will happen. When we expect loved ones, we may know the day but wait nervously for the hour of arrival. The waiting may be tedious but it will be worthwhile.

The Lord's return has been expected for a long time. Even in the early decades of the Church's existence He was expected. The wait has been long. That waiting dares not become inactivity. It must be Spiritual activity with watchfulness. Watching implies an awareness of dangers present and an anticipation of something better. The Christians must be prepared for the Lord's return or the hour of death whichever may be his release from this life.

Watching is very important in the Christian life. Jesus commanded it many times, along with patient waiting and prayerfulness. The Christian needs to be aware not only of the glories awaiting him but also of the dangers along the way that might keep him from enjoying what the Lord desires for him.

Are you waiting? Are you praying? Are you watching?

# ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Intercessory Prayer

The year is rapidly drawing to a close, but not only the year. The end of this age is also drawing quickly to a conclusion and it is time that we expend more energy in praying for each other and for those who are unsaved. The church today has many praying men, but few men in prayer!

Possibly the greatest privilege offered to man is the opportunity to reach up to God in prayer. We need to do it with great vigor. How many times have we given prayer the leftovers of our time or waited until there was no other way out? Prayer too often becomes mechanical and we attempt to perform it by formula.

Isaiah teaches us, "He bare the sin of many, and made INTER-CESSION for the transgressors." (53:12) Intercession is the outpouring of the soul to God on the behalf of the needs of others. Without this outpouring we will never experience a great revival in the church. We must live very close to the heart of God. We must have an intimacy with Jesus that peoples of other times have not known. And, as intercessors, we have a foreknowledge of what is the will of the Lord. We have His doctrines and teachings at our fingertips. We know that it is His will that all men be saved. But is His will our will? Do we really care that all men are saved or is it easy at times just to let them die in sin and not feel concerned or guilty about it? Lets face it Brothers and Sisters... we are either going to have a revival or we are going to experience a funeral in the church. It is up to us and our dedication to the cause of Christ. We must rid ourselves of lethargy and cry out with tearful concern about the needs of the church and of others. "The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save..." We can look forward to great things from Him, even in this calamitous hour. Isaiah spoke in a climate similar to the one we live in today. One wonders what the holy Creator thinks of the complex, powerless, heavily-financed, computerized system that we tend to call the "church" today. Notice that I didn't say world! As the church takes on more of the character of the world, it is getting more and more difficult to differentiate between the two.

Truly, intercessors are a rare breed in the 80's. These are people who not only have God first in their lives... but it is GOD ONLY in their lives. They live, move and have their being in the Lord. They "love the Lord with all of their soul, with all of their might, and their neighbor as themselves..." and that is why they ARE intercessors. And I am not talking about the person who prays a half hour every Friday morning at a prayer breakfast. That might well be an uplifting and profitable experience but that is not the real spirit of intercession.

Abraham was to talk BEFORE God. The Children of Israel were told to walk AFTER Him. Enoch and Noah walked WITH God. But we who are members of His blessed Body, the Church, have an even closer walk. We are admonished to walk IN Him. (Col. 2:6) In

fact, the more committed to Him we become, we find that we walk before Him as children; we walk after Him as servants; we walk with Him as friends; and we walk in Him as members of the Body. As we have this super-close relationship, as an intercessor, our intimacy with God is great. When He is hurting, we hurt. Because we are filled with the Spirit, what grieves the Holy Spirit also grieves our spirit. The intercessor has pains to which other believers are really strangers. We become selfless. We become impervious to social pressure. Our judgments are not according to popular opinion, but are based on the pressures of the Spirit within us. Our spiritual pulse never slackens and our zeal for God can't be tempered. Our compassion knows no variation and we are God-appointed, Godsupported and God-enlightened. Now, are we talking about a "super-Christian" here? Are we talking about a radical or a fanatic? I have a feeling that many of us would think so. May God forgive us. Our ultimate feeling should be that the intercessor never loses sight of the fact that men are "by nature the children of wrath" and that "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men." (Eph. 1:18) Because he is confident of God's justice, the intercessor holds on until he sees God working His holy work... and men responding to the voice of the Master.

There are burdens out in the vineyard to be lifted and barriers to be removed. Won't you take up the challenge to an intercessor's kind of commitment? There is wickedness in high places, and ruin among people. Many have to be recruited to this work today. Will it be you? Will you take hold of the vision and see the ray of hope? Will you be inspired and touched in such a way that you will heed the Lord's purpose and will for a greater dedication of your life? Let 1988 be your "turn-around" year and let your spirit soar to the Lord in intercession.

Brother Len Wertz

# **THANKSGIVING**

1.

Thanksgiving is a special day It comes but once a year, Families get together then Bringing each other cheer.

2.

The Pilgrims left their home-land And in crossing the briny deep,

Many of the original party In death, had fallen asleep.

3.

Those who made it safely across
Winter was very hard, and then -In the spring they cleared some land
Where they planted their first garden.

4.

That Fall, they had a meager crop It provided a skimpy living, Nevertheless they thanked the Lord Establishing the first THANKSGIVING.

5.

Today, too many people fail to pray
To thank the Lord for their food,
They eat 'til they're over-stuffed
Then tell the cook it was good.

6.

To those who are not thankful
To God for the bountiful food,
I'll give you Christ's example
When He fed the multitude.

7.

Mark 8:6...

He told the people to sit down
He took seven loaves and fish,
He then gave THANKS to God above
Fulfilling His only wish --

8

Mark 8:6...

That the people be not hungry
When He sent them on their way,
Seven baskets of food were left over
After four thousand were fed that day.

9

John 3:16...

We should thank our God Almighty
For the gift of His dear Son,
For Jesus dying upon the cross
Giving His life for our redemption.

Eph. 1:7...

10.

Paul tells us in Ephesians

Eph. 5:20...

In chapter five, verse twenty, Give thanks to God for all things For when He gives, He gives a plenty. 11.

Ecc. 3:1... Jer. 5:24... Ecc. 3:1... We put the seed into the ground He gives early and latter rains, When the time comes to harvest We gather in the ripened grains.

12.

Psalms 106:1...

We're commanded to thank the Lord
For He is very, very good,
His mercy endureth forever
It is only reasonable we should.

13

So on this THANKSGIVING day When you're about to eat your fill, Don't forget to THANK the Lord That's in harmony with His will.

14.

If we live the life we should Though we meet with toil and strife, He will always keep His promise Granting us Eternal Life.

- Elder Paul R. Myers

# THE FAMILY OF FAITH

I Peter 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."

I Peter 3:8 "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:"

An article in another publication has caused us to think on the subject of the family of faith. We see this issue as a very complex one with no easy answers. However, we believe the Word of God gives us some guidelines we can go by.

The article we mentioned had to do with the issues of peace and salvation. The major concern was that some opposed supporting those who would allow for Christians being involved in the military but had a good understanding of salvation, while giving support to those who held a peace position but lacked a true understanding of salvation. We can relate to this concern. We, too, feel more comfortable with those who would be labeled "fundamentalist" than those labeled "liberal" who hold to political pacifism. However, the issue goes beyond this argument.

Our first verse, I Peter 1:22, tells us that we have purified our souls by obeying the truth through the Spirit. We have to ask the question, "Do those of the "fundamentalist" persuasion believe in salvation the same way we do?" While we would agree that salvation is a free gift from God through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we do not agree on what salvation is in the life of a believer! The "fundamentalist" sees salvation as a once done experience that guarantees eternal life. They do not believe that we must purify our souls by obeying the truth. Some teach that obedience has nothing at all to do with the Christian life and that "Lordship salvation" is a false teaching. The rest teach that not obeying will merely cause you to lose rewards in Heaven. This is not the historic anabaptist teaching on salvation but the result of Calvanistic error.

Our second verse, I Peter 3:8, instructs us, "be ye all of one mind." Here is where the problem of who is truly a part of the family of faith comes in. If this was all that was said in this verse we could be more dogmatic and state that those who do not follow the teachings of scripture cannot be a part of the family of faith. We would not be misunderstood at this point. We would not guarantee anyone who chooses to ignore such teachings as modesty in dress, the wearing of the prayer veil, or Biblical nonresistance a home in Heaven. However, on the other hand, we, personally, do not believe we can "play God" and dogmatically state that such will not have a home in Heaven if they are truly born again. The rest of this verse leads us to this possibility.

Peter says, "having compassion one of another." Compassion is a very deep feeling. It goes beyond the worldly "caring for one another." We believe only a truly born again believer can have true compassion. We recently read an article by a Lutheran individual whose wife was in a very serious automobile accident. His statement of his love for Christ and assurance of Christ's love through it all made us feel a deep compassion for this individual. Although his wife was seriously injured and in a coma he did not lose faith that God still had His hand on her through it all. It takes more than "plain dress" to have a faith like this. We feel a brotherly compassion towards such. But, again we hasten to say that we cannot guarantee him eternal life if he chooses to disregard scripture.

Peter goes on to say we are to "love as brethren." This should make us "Brethren" stand up and take notice. We are sick at heart at the lack of love we see among many of the "plain people." While we do not believe we can compromise on one issue of faith, we can still love if we disagree.

Next he states that we are to "be pitiful." While many within the

earthly church pity us because of our "legalistic" life, we should pity them for missing out on the joys of serving Christ with all the heart, soul and mind (along with the body). They have to reach out to worldly amusements and styles of the world to find pleasure. If God allows them into the glories of Heaven they will still miss out on the blessing of an obedient life on earth. We should also pity them because they may give all of their life to "serving Christ" and still lose their eternal reward (Heaven) because of disobedience.

Lastly, Peter says we are to "be courteous." Too many Christians walk around with "a chip on their shoulder." We can give a smile and a hearty handshake even if we do disagree on doctrine. Perhaps one of the reasons the "plain life" has been forsaken is because of a poor attitude on the part of those who follow this scriptural lifestyle.

God will be the final judge of who is in the family of faith. However, we believe it is dangerous to follow too closely (and worse yet, to use in a worship situation) those who deny the truths of our anabaptist faith. May each of us desire to follow Christ and the Holy Scriptures.

If you have never accepted Jesus Christ and been baptized we urge you to consider the need of doing this before it is eternally too late. This is how you enter into the family of faith. The blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse you from all sin. From there you have a need to purify your soul by obeying the truth through (the leading) of the (Holy) Spirit, as you read and study God's Holy Word, the Bible.

James M. Hite 816 E. Birch St. Palmyra, PA 17078

## SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 1, 1928 THE GOSPEL NET G. W. Reitz

"Again the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore and sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world. The angels shall come forth and sever the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire. There shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Matt. 13:47-50.

Several of our Lord's disciples were fisherman. Much of his ministry was passed by the Sea of Gallilee. We find him on various occasions making use of a fishing boat for crossing that inland sea

or lake, and once at least he preached from one. Such a scene as that described in the parable might be seen there any day, and may be still, for fishermen still ply their business on those waters. Their boats still cross from side to side. Their nets are still let down for a draught, and at other times may be seen spread on the rocks. A net must of necessity gather of every kind, the bad as well as the good, the worthless as well as the useful. The separation takes place afterwards. Then the bad are cast away and the good are kept. This is done now wherever net fishing is practiced, just as it was done of old. There are few crafts which have changed less than that of the fisherman. This parable, therefore, in its story part, is a very plain one, and as plain to us as it was to those who first heard it. Our Lord has made the spiritual meaning equally clear. He himself explained it. First he gives us to understand that the parable is meant to represent the kingdom of heaven, that is the visible church of Christ, or God's government on earth under the gospel. In other words, what fishermen do in gathering all kinds of fish into their net, and then separating the bad from the good, is like what Almighty God is doing now, and will do hereafter with regard to men. The visible church embraces people of every kind. As the net gathers every kind, so does the gospel. True believers and mere professors, spiritual Christians and heartless formalists, the careless and the thoughtless, the undecided, the hypocrite, the deceiver of others and of himself. All these may be found within the visible church, the general body of those who call themselves Christians. How great a difference there may be even among the members of one congregation. They sit side by side, they unite in the same prayer, they hear the same preaching, yet how vast a difference there may be among them in the sight of God. He sees the hearts of all, and it is by the heart that he judges. Man himself would separate between the thief, the swearer, the drunkard, the Sabbath breakers on the one hand, and the man of consistent, Godly life on the other. God sees farther than man, and much that is respectable in the eyes of men is not approved by him. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Only he who is of a penitent and contrite heart, and rests his hope on his Saviour and seeks to serve and glorify him, is accepted and approved by God. But this mixture is only for a time. When the net was full, it was drawn to shore, and the separation was made. When the gospel shall be full, that is, when God shall see fit to put an end to the present state of things, then likewise a separation will be made.

The fishermen would not suffer the bad fish to be among the good. None but the good shall be put into the vessels. The rest must be thrown away as useless, and worse than useless. In like manner, when the great separation shall come, God, by his angels, will sever the wicked from among the just. They must stay where

they are no longer. The hypocrite, the formalist, the careless, the profane, the undecided, may no longer be with the true servants of God. They must now be parted, parted forever. The righteous will go to their place, the place which was purchased for them by their Redeemer's blood, and which he himself went before to prepare for them, and the wicked must go to theirs. They cannot escape now, for they despised the day of grace, and the day of grace is past. They must be cast into the furnace of fire. There shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. But this is for the wicked. Some may say, must all who are not cleansed among the righteous be placed with the wicked? Even so. There is no place between the abode of the righteous and the wicked. In the sight of God there is no character between these two. All the fish gathered into the net were either good or bad; all were either put into vessels, or thrown away; there was no middle sort not good enough to be thrown away. So every soul will be placed either among the righteous or among the wicked. The angels will have none but the just among the just. There will be no confusion or mistake in that division. Every one whose name is not written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire. There is no middle class, no middle place. How solemnly does this parable speak to all. How it should lead us to deep searchings of heart, for we are all concerned here. We are all not gathered into the gospel net, and we shall all have a part in that separation. None will be mere lookers-on. Where shall we be placed then? Shall we be numbered among the just? Are we so now? Does the all-seeing eye behold us this very day as true children of God, real believers, Christians in heart as well as in name? Oh, if not, let this parable be as a quickening, an awakening voice from God himself. Let there be no self-deception, no stifling of conscience, no vain and unscriptural hope that things may not, after all, be as they are represented they will be. Nothing can alter the word of God. The only wisdom, the only safety, is now to seek Jesus with all the heart, and thus to make sure of being found in him at last.

Many are called, but few are chosen, as we notice and see around us. Christian professors, yes. Church members, lovers of their own selves, covetous boasters, proud, unthankful, unholy, not giving thanks to their Heavenly Father for what he gives them to eat. Without natural affection, not having a form of Godliness; some having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof. From such turn away. (Pet. 3-5) Ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Brethren, I hope we have none in the Dunkard Brethren Church that are so unthankful, unholy. Let us be watchful, praying daily to our Heavenly Father, giving thanks for all things. The time is nigh at hand when God will close these evil days for the elect's sake.

#### THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Local Churches and Co-operation

J. H. Moore

It would appear that there were no congregations organized during the ministry of Christ. Not until after the Day of Pentecost do we find even a semblance of an organization. The apostles, by Jesus, had been ordained, and were therefore prepared for any line of church work. Some time after the conversion of the three thousand, we find them taking steps looking to the systematizing of the affairs of the church at Jerusalem. The selection of the "seven" has a particular bearing on the question. Later we find churches in many of the cities, with their elders (or bishops), deacons, and other helpers. Thus it will be seen that the forming of the believers into local and properly-officered congregations was a gradual work, provided for, however, in the teachings of Jesus, and regulated by the Holy Spirit.

While these local churches, in carrying forward the duties entrusted to them, operated more or less independently, still they were held together by a common interest and purpose, along with the oneness of faith and practice so clearly set forth in the New Testament Scriptures. When necessary, they could co-operate, even to the forming of decrees, as will be seen by referring to the action of the Conference at Jerusalem (Acts 15:23; 16:4). In keeping with what was done at the Jerusalem conference, any number of congregations may co-operate in dealing with matters pertaining to the interests of the kingdom, and so long as these congregations working together, — or even separately, for that matter, — keep within the New Testament bounds, they may adopt such measures as wisdom would dictate in carrying forward the work entrusted to them.

This paves the way for District or General Conferences, as well as for conventions. Co-operation, and even organization for that purpose, are in perfect keeping with the Gospel. This does not mean that a Conference has authority to enact laws and enforce them as such; but it does mean that it is her privilege, and at times her duty, so far as necessary, to interpret the Scriptures, and to aid in enforcing any duty enjoined by Christ or any of the New Testament writers. The function of any Conference is largely judiciary and executive, but not legislative. In its work it must be governed by what the New Testament teaches, both in word and spirit. The aim of a Conference should be the unity of the body, loyalty to the Scriptures, efficiency in service, and adoption of any wise method for advancing the interests of the kingdom of God.

### THE EYE OF THE STORM

"Fear not that the whirlwind shall carry thee hence Nor wait for the onslaught in breathless suspence, Nor shrink from the whips of the terrible hail, But pass through the edge to the heart of the gale For there is a shelter sunlighted and warm, And faith sees her God through the eye of the storm.

"The passionate tempest with rush and wild roar
And threatenings of evil may beat on the shore,
The waves may be mountains, the fields battle plains,
And the earth be immersed in a deluge of rains,
Yet, the soul stayed on God, may sing bravely its psalm,
For the heart of the storm is the center of calm.

"Let hope be not quenched in the blackness of night, Though the cyclone awhile may have blotted the light, For behind the great darkness the stars ever shine, And the light of God's heavens, His love shall make thine, Let no gloom dim thine eyes, but uplift them on high To the face of thy God and the blue of His sky.

"The storm is thy shelter, from danger and sin, And God Himself takes thee for safety within; The tempest with Him passeth into deep calm, And the roar of the winds is the sound of a Psalm. Be glad and serene when the tempest clouds form; God smiles on His child in the eye of the storm."

- Selected by Sister Ruth M. Snyder

# ALONE WITH GOD

"Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst." John 8:9.

Alone with Jesus! What a sweet and holy spot! What a blessed refuge to which the soul may betake itself from the charges of Satan, the accusations of the world, and the sorrows of life! Sweet spot for the heart to unfold itself to tell its hidden tale in the ear of Infinite love, tenderness and compassion!

Alone with Jesus! How different a front would Christianity present to the world if the Lord's people were oftener there! What humility, and gentleness, and love, would characterize all their dealings! What holiness stamped on the very brow, that all might read! What few judgements passed on others, how many more on ourselves! What calmness and resignation and joyful submission to all the Lord's dealings!

Be much "alone with Jesus!" Then will the passage to glory be one of sunshine, whether it be through the portals of the grave or through the clouds of Heaven.

- F. Whitfield Selected by L. H. Miller

#### THE VICTORIOUS RESURRECTION OF JESUS

When our blessed Saviour was alive in His earthly body He said to destroy this temple and in three days he would raise it up. The scribes and Pharisees remembered this and used all their wisdom and powers to hinder the resurrection of Jesus. A great stone was placed at the entrance of the sepulcher where Jesus was laid after He suffered the cruel death on the cross. Also soldiers were placed there for a watch to make sure His body would stay in the grave.

The power of God was manifested as a great earthquake took place. An angel of the Lord appeared and rolled the stone away and sat upon it and the soldiers became as dead men.

Up from the grave He arose,

With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;

This was a great victory for all mankind. Two women came to the tomb to see and anoint the body of Jesus. Two angels of the Lord were there and said, "Why seek ye the living among the dead. He is not here but is risen."

He arose a Victor from the dark domain, And He lives forever with His saints to reign.

This was hard for His followers to understand. He made Himself known after death.

The way is now open. We can be victorious. The great victory Christ won is a blessing for those who receive His saving gospel. We can be victorious over death and the grave. We can go from mortality to immortality, away from the hardships of this life to eternal joy and happiness. This can be done by accepting the saving Gospel of Christ. By the new birth we pass from darkness to light; from death to life; from the power of Satan to the power of God.

Henceforth we should walk in the Spirit and live daily in Christ Jesus our Saviour. No one can take on Christ without taking Him as Lord of his life. We cannot be a true Christian without living the Christ like life. Sin and death are in the way of those who fail to accept Christ as their Saviour. If we live our life here in this world with Him we can rise to eternal glory with Him. Have we renounced Satan with all his sinful ways and pleasures of this world?

The Apostle Paul had a great desire to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. As in Adam all die so in Christ shall all

be made alive. As we have borne the image of the earthly we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. This corruptible, mortal body shall put on incorruption and immortality, and death is swallowed up in victory. The Apostles were given great power and witness of the resurrection and great grace was upon them.

Job asked, "If a man die shall he live again?" Let us ever be mindful of the great sacrifice our Heavenly Father and His Son made for our redemption to inherit eternal salvation. With the many comfortable words in the saving Gospel of Christ, we should arise and shine and be a bright light in our day of darkness in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. We may turn many to the way of truth and righteousness.

Christ intends that His people may be able through Him to arise from the grave in like manner as He did. The Saviour risen from the dead proved beyond a doubt that He is the Son of God and we can depend upon His word as truth. We have His guide book to safety and everlasting salvation. He paid the price for us, for it was impossible for us to pay. Such a debt of love and service, we owe Him. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Christ cleanseth us from all sin.

We shall not escape eternal punishment if we neglect this great salvation. He said to His own, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you." He has gone to prepare a place for the faithful. He is coming back to Earth to receive His faithful servants unto Himself. Are you prepared and ready for His appearing?

Brother J. F. Marks 901 Chambers Road York, PA 17402

## **NEWS ITEMS**

#### THANK YOU

Greetings in Jesus' name to all the Brethren, Sisters and kind friends who sent me cards, letters and telephone calls while I was in the hospital. I am now back at Mt. Hope Home and slowly recovering from my fall. I want to say thank you to each one and may God bless you for your love, prayers and concern. It means so much to me.

In Christian love, Sister Virgie Rio

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# **BIBLE MONITOR**

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**DECEMBER 15, 1988** 

NO. 24

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

### WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread Had seized their troubled mind, "Glad tidings of great joy I bring, To you and all mankind."

"To you, in David's town, this day Is born, of David's line, The Savior, who is Christ the Lord; And this shall be the sign."

"The heav'nly Babe you there shall find To human view displayed, All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid."

"All glory be to God on high, And to the earth be peace; Good-will henceforth from heav'n to men Begin, and never cease."

- Nahum Tate

## KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK

The first public announcement of the birth of Jesus was to the shepherds who were watching their flock in the hills near Bethlehem. We might suppose such an event would first be announced in Herod's palace, but Herod didn't even know about it until told by the Wise Men many months later. God had reasons to make this announcement of peace on earth and good will to men to the shepherds.

The shepherds were common men doing their daily jobs. The leaders of the land, political or Spiritual, ignored them, yet they were necessary. The shepherds were the first to hear and respond to the message. When Herod eventually heard, his response was to eliminate another rival as he had eliminated members of his own family whom he distrusted. But the shepherds hurried to the stable to see the Babe. They came to worship the One who had been so long expected, yet so little accepted.

This is but the first example of His relationship with the common people. The common people who heard Him gladly while the Pharisees and other leaders ridiculed, opposed and rejected Him. It has been the common people since who have worshipped and accepted Him most readily. The rich, famous and powerful were and still are too self-reliant to yield themselves to Him and His plan for their lives. Very few of the great and noble can lower themselves to follow the meek and self-deprecating way demanded by Christ. By their intelligence, money or power they feel they can secure the blessings of this life as well as eternal blessings to follow.

The common people are used to following. But even some

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common people who hope to become rich, famous or powerful so they follow the example of those who already have attained such a lifestyle. They then imagine themselves to be self-reliant and lose their leadability.

The shepherds were no accidental choice as the first to hear the glad tidings. Jesus would be identified with shepherds throughout His ministry. He would even call Himself the Good Shepherd. He would wander across Israel from Galilee to Judea through Samaria and around the Sea of Galilee and back again. Like the shepherd He was bringing the food needed by the sheep. The shepherds moved their flocks to the green pastures. Jesus moved to where the people were so He could feed them Spiritually.

The shepherd had to give himself to serve his sheep. It was his responsibility to lead the sheep in safe pathways, to green pastures, to still waters. He had to defend the sheep. Though the sheep might have mock bravery, especially when fighting amongst themselves, they were no match for the dogs, wolves and other enemies that might attack them. Their environment required a shepherd who would be sure their food and drink was safe. The Good Shepherd must be the protector of the sheep Spiritually, being sure they are not destroyed by the open or subtle methods of the Devil nor poisoned by the misapplication or perversion of the Word of God.

The Angels made their Heavenly announcement to several shepherds, but there was only one flock. The individual sheep made up this flock. There were many with their individual personalities yet they were one group guided, protected and fed by the sheperds. These sheep represent Christians but fearfully the unity of that flock is lacking. The shepherds have disagreed among themselves. Some have even given up their work. Some have been proven to be unfaithful, even leading some of the sheep astray. Some of the sheep, depending upon their own mock bravery, have disrupted the flock.

In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed that His flock might be united. His will was not for the sheep to be scattered, although having varying personalities He wanted them to be molded into one flock. Each was to serve Him faithfully and to be submissive to the shepherds who were faithfully and truthfully leading them.

The shepherds were the first to hear for they were out with their flock even at night. The night represents many dangers. Not only is darkness dangerous but it can hide many other dangers. So the shepherds were there with the sheep. They were where they should be and they were the ones who first heard the news and saw the Heavenly sight. The angels appeared to the shepherds not to kings or priests.

Jesus' earthly ministry would be more identified with the shepherds than with the rulers although He is the Prince of Peace, Lord of Lords and King of Kings. He was submissive to His Father while serving the human family in temporal and material, as well as in Spiritual ways.

Might we learn from the prominence of the shepherds in this event that the common, submissive, serviceable person is the one who can be best used by the Bishop and Shepherd of our souls.

#### HOW SHALL THIS BE?

Luke 1:28-35

The time had come and all things were ready for the birth of our Savior. God had selected a certain time, a certain place, and a certain young woman to be the mother. The Bible contains various prophecies concerning Christ, and all were to be fulfilled totally. His birth was the answer to the need of mankind, a redeemer.

God first promised a Savior many years earlier. He was not going to allow Satan to have the upper hand, even though man had sinned and alienated himself from God. God made Adam and Eve leave the Garden after they had sinned to be sure mankind would not live forever in a sinful state. Gen. 3:24 says angels with flashing swords were placed by the garden "to keep the way of the tree of life." Our Savior is this way of life.

God's will is for us to live. Sin brings death, so something had to be done. Cain transgressed God's laws when he killed his brother. God punished him by making Cain a fugitive. Cain wasn't allowed to stay in one place. He wasn't allowed to stay near his family, the earth wouldn't produce for him either, and he was afraid. Cain said, "My punishment is greater than I can bear." (Gen. 4:13) So it has been with man ever since — our punishment is greater than we can bear. Our transgressions isolate us from God, and we are without hope, except in Jesus.

Adam and Eve knew they did wrong, Cain knew he did wrong, but that knowledge wasn't enough. They needed a remedy, a means of forgiveness and reconciliation with God. No amount of remorse could undo their actions. No amount of remorse could restore Abel to life. Without a means of cleansing, they were in a hopeless mess. How then could they ever get out of it?

Mary asked, "How shall this be?" She was concerned at that moment about the fact that she was to have a child, yet she didn't have a husband. How could such a thing be? It was against nature, but the angel said it would happen. Her heart was troubled, but the angel said, "Fear not." He said God had it all arranged, every detail was covered, and her needs would be taken care of.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37. Not even a virgin birth is impossible. Not even forgiveness is impossible. Not even the changing of our hearts is impossible. God has made a way, He has said how it would be, and it's up to us to accept it. Like Cain, our punishment is greater than we can bear alone. Like Adam and Eve, we reap what we have sown, and we suffer because of our sins. We can't face the reality of our soul's need without a Savior.

The human heart cannot face a just God without Jesus. We need a mediator and we need assurance that God has forgiven us. There is so much that we need and how shall it be — without Jesus? The fact is, it can't be until we submit to Him and seek to do His will.

Mary was human as we are and she didn't understand what was happening. She knew God was doing something special, but it was beyond her comprehension. Yet she made herself available to God. She questioned Him, but not for long. The angel's answer satisfied her and she went on about life with the confidence that God's plan would unfold.

Not a one of us can fully understand God's plan of salvation. The question comes to our hearts, "How can God accept us when we've messed up our lives so badly? How can He bring us close to His heart and love us when we are often so unlovable? When Mary asked, "How shall this be?", she wasn't doubting. She was anticipating the event, but couldn't understand how it would occur. Like her, we don't understand, but we don't need to. It is enough to say, "Be it unto me according to Thy Word."

Jesus was born of a virgin, He did die to save us. He intercedes for us now before God. How can it be, that He would do so much for us? It shall be when we come to Him, when we let go of our will and obey Him. We don't understand it, but we can accept it and be blessed.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

## ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Born to be King"

As we consider the birth of the King it would seem important to take a look at His genealogy in Matthew! There, we find the roots of Jesus dating back to Abraham, Father of the Jewish race. Pay attention to the fact that there are some very notorious sinners listed there. We see names like Rahab, Tamar, David and Bathsheba. These individuals all committed grievous sins but they are included in the list. The fact that Christ's linage shows these very human individuals proves a first important fact — that He was closely identified with the human race and with sinful men for

whom He would die one eventful day about thirty three years later.

Even though many of the people listed were full of sin at times... sin never touched this One, born King. He was wholly without sin. We, because of Adamic sin, inherited sin natures and because of our own selfish natures, required salvation which could come only from this sinless Man.

Look at the promise. God had promised that in Abraham's seed, all of the world would be blessed. God always keeps His promises. He promised to raise up a Saviour from the family of David and He kept that promise faithfully. Of equal importance is His promise to save us if we come to Him in faith and obedience. He answers our prayers, blesses our lives, and someday will take us home at the end of the way. This child... born King... is our ONLY HOPE... the hope of ages past and of this age.

This One born to be King was to be born of a marvelous young woman named Mary. God sent His personal angel messenger, Gabriel, down to her and informed her that she was going to bring forth a Son. She was amazed and frightened because she had not yet consumated her betrothal with Joseph. But Mary trusted in the Lord with all of her heart and accepted this great blessing and responsibility.

Imagine the concern of Joseph when he learned of Mary's condition. He did not yet know that this conception was of God and that it was to change the course of man's history. But he was patient and tender and didn't act hastily. He just waited. Isaiah said that "they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." When a man waits upon the Lord, the Lord moves to help him... always! Our trouble today is that we are always in too big a hurry. We take the bit in our mouths and rush ahead. While our forefathers were content to wait a week for the next train, we get angry when we miss one section of a revolving door! We frequently ruin things because of our rushing ahead of God.

As Joseph waited, God spoke to him. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, (my words) "Joseph, all is well. Mary has not sinned. That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." God planned for this Child, born to be King, to grow up in a normal home environment and have the experiences of a normal boy so that He could sympathize with us and help us in our experiences of life.

Many cult religions today build up false ideas about Mary. They worship her in many ways. They say that she remained a "perpetual virgin" and that Christ was her only child. Yet the Bible tells us that she had at least six other children. Read Matthew

13:55. They say that she is a mediator between God and man. But the Bible plainly says in I Timothy 2:5 that, "there is one mediator between God and man, the Man, Christ Jesus." They say that she never died but that she was taken up bodily into heaven. This doctrine was adopted just a few years ago and thus she has become an object of worship... yet, the Bible plainly teaches us that the only One to be worshiped is the God-head.

How then, should we think of this "woman" who was to be the earthly, biological mother of the King? Simply, she was a good woman, a handmaiden and servant of the Lord. She was willing to be used of God for the prophetic fulfillment of His Word and will. In simple faith... not unlike many special Christian women today, she yielded in obedience to the will of God. She became the ultimate contrast to "mother Eve." Remember, outside of the sheer miracle of God, we need never try to understand this wonderful birth in all of its glory.

Joseph was told that Mary would "bring forth a son and thou shalt call His Name Jesus, for He shall save the people from their sins." Great news! Glorious tidings! We can lift up our heads, though we are poor and lost, a part of seething humanity. WE HAVE A SAVIOUR! God Himself came down in human form and loved and died for us for our salvation! There can never be a more wonderful message than that. Never has there been such a bright light to light the darkness. We have hope... all because of this child born to be King.

Alexander built an empire, Napoleon changed the nations of the world, Newton brought about an intellectual revolution, Edison created a new world of science but only One has touched and transformed the human heart. That was Jesus.

May the sad commentary of the Christmas story... that there was no room for Jesus in the inn.. never happen in our lives. May we always have room in our hearts for the one born King. Give the gift of your life to Him and you will one day live with Him as the conquering King in His place on high.

Brother Len Wertz

### WHAT JESUS IS

To the ARTIST He is the ALTOGETHER LOVELY. (Song of Solomon 5:16)

To the ARCHITECT He is the CHIEF CORNERSTONE. (I Peter 2:6)

To the ASTRONOMER He is the SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. (Mal. 4:2)

To the BAKER He is the LIVING BREAD. (John 6:35)

To the BANKER He is the HIDDEN TREASURE. (Matt. 13:44)

To the BIOLOGIST He is the LIFE. (John 14:6)

To the BUILDER He is the SURE FOUNDATION. (II Tim. 2:19)

To the DOCTOR He is the GREAT PHYSICIAN. (Luke 4:23)

To the EDUCATOR He is the GREAT TEACHER. (John 3:2)

To the ENGINEER He is the NEW AND LIVING WAY. (Hebrews 10:20)

To the FARMER He is the SOWER and the LORD OF HARVEST. (Matt. 13:3)

To the FLORIST He is the ROSE OF SHARON and the LILY OF THE VALLEY. (Song of Sol. 2:1)

To the GEOLOGIST He is the ROCK OF AGES. (I Cor. 10:4)

To the HORTICULTURIST He is the TRUE VINE. (John 15:10)

To the JUDGE He is the RIGHTEOUS JUDGE of all men. (II Tim. 4:8)

To the JUROR He is the FAITHFUL AND TRUE WITNESS. (Rev. 1:5)

To the JEWELER He is the PEARL OF GREAT PRICE. (Matt. 14:46)

To the LAWYER He is the COUNSELOR, the LAWGIVER and ADVOCATE. (Isa. 9:6)

To the NEWSPAPER MAN He is the GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY. (Luke 2:10)

To the OCULIST He is the LIGHT of the EYE. (Job 7:8)

To the PHILANTROPIST He is the UNSPEAKABLE GIFT. (II Cor. 9:15)

To the PREACHER He is the WORD OF GOD. (John 1:1)

To the SCULPTOR He is the LIVING STONE. (I Peter 2:5)

To the SERVANT He is the GOOD MASTER. (Luke 10:25)

To the STATESMAN He is the DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS. (Hag. 2:7)

To the STUDENT He is the INCARNATE TRUTH. (Eph. 1:13)

To the THEOLOGIAN He is the AUTHOR and FINISHER of our FAITH. (Heb. 12:2)

To the TOILER He is the giver of REST. (Matt. 11:28)

To the SINNER He is the LAMB OF GOD that taketh away the SIN of the WORLD. (John 1:29)

To the ONES who TRUST Him, He is their SAVIOR, LORD, SHEPHERD, HIGH PRIEST, COMING KING of KINGS and LORD of LORDS. (Rev. 19:16)

Author Unknown
 Selected by Brother Paul R. Myers

# THE VALLEY OF DECISION

Joel 3:14, "Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

Luke 14:26, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."

First of all, let us state that we acknowledge that our opening verse taken from the book of Joel, taken within its context, relates to prophecy. We apologize to anyone who may be offended by our use of this verse.

We have very recently went through a very personal valley of decision. Our decision to join the Dunkard Brethren Church was a struggle in one sense and a victory in another sense. We have deeply appreciated the love and acceptance we have found within the Dunkard Brethren Church for several years now. This made our decision very easy. However, we continue to have a great deal of love for those we have "left behind". This made the decision very difficult.

Our second verse, taken from the book of Luke, is perhaps the most difficult verse in Holy Scripture when applied in a personal way. It must be understood that the word "hate" is used in a relational way in this particular passage of Scripture. We believe it can be defined as "love less than." When a decision involves your family, whether it is the entire family or a single member, it makes the decision much more difficult. However, this verse, along with other scripture, makes it clear that even our own loved ones must take second place to the Lord Jesus Christ and His commandments.

We believe much of the earthly church is in a valley of decision. There are many teachings and doctrines we are confronted with that leaves us in a valley of decision. We believe this is perhaps more true of us that are a part of the plain way of life than any other type of conviction. The vast majority of the books written today along with radio and other media outreaches such as Christian literature would lead one to believe that there is no need to live a life of nonconformity to the world. Reading is one of our favorite pastimes. However, we are more than a little troubled about the many books that give a glowing "christian testimony" that involve individuals who follow the fashions of this world as well as attend worldly amusements. Along with this we are astonished at the number of books in recent years which give the impression that the Bible sanctions divorce and remarriage. It cannot be denied that this type of literature has had a great impact on Christendom as a whole. We wonder how much of an impact it has had on members

of plain denominations and groups?

We are especially concerned how this type of teaching may have an impact on our youth. While our youth, especially those in the teenage years, are going through their own personal valley of decision they are bombarded with outside influences. The time when the plain people were almost all farmers or tradesmen and lived in a closed community is, with a very few exceptions, a thing of the past. We must face the reality that our "community" now includes those who have broken homes and other problems that our forefathers knew very little, if anything, about. The lack of young people in at least some, and perhaps many, of our congregations forces those of their teenage years to seek companionship outside of our fellowship. While it would seem good to seek other Christians as friends and companions, we must also realize that the vast majority of these will try to belittle the plain way of life. We have no easy answer to the obvious problem of a lack of companionship for many of our youth and the perhaps related problem of the failure of many of our youth to accept the plain way of life. But we believe it is an area where much prayer and compassion is needed.

Another area of decision that is not popular today is to "hate—(our) own life also." In place of this many are teaching that we must love ourself before we can love others! But "self-love" is not limited to those who are progressive minded. We are concerned that many plain individuals and groups are so filled with "self-love" that they are almost reluctant to recognize a plain Brother or Sister as a fellow contender for the Faith. When we compare ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ all of us fall short. This should prevent us from judging others to the extent that WE decide who will enter the gates of Heaven. This does not mean we do not hold standards or preach and teach our convictions. It is our conviction that when we become convinced that our little group or denomination is the only ones who are "right" we are in danger of being cultic rather than contenders.

The most important decision any individual will ever make is to accept or reject the Lord Jesus Christ and His shed blood for our sins. If you are in this valley of decision we urge you not to linger there too long, Eternity is forever. It will be a reality of Heaven or Hell. As we each struggle with our valley of decisions let us pray for one another and share the love of Christ.

Brother James M. Hite 816 E. Birch St. Palmyra, PA 17078

#### SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 15, 1928

#### JOSEPH AND HIS BRETHREN

Genesis 45:2

Reuben Shroyer

"And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard."

This scripture in the Old Testament reminds us of another in the New Testament.

"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God, and the prisoners heard them."

Now, we would imagine that Joseph would have been the person to sing, Paul and Silas to weep. Joseph was surrounded with every happiness, whilst Paul and Silas were in a dungeon, in the dark; hungry, and thirsty; their feet in the stocks. It is an awful thing to hear a man weep aloud. There must be some cause for it. Why did Joseph weep aloud? He has sent all his servants out of the room. He is alone with his brethren. And the first thing his servants hear is somebody weeping aloud. It is Joseph's voice. Why did he so weep aloud? Answer:

## 1. HIS PENT-UP FEELINGS.

When we give way to our feelings directly, we can get through without much trouble, but when we restrain them for a while, they become turbulent. Now, Joseph had been refraining himself for months and on several very trying occasions. Is it any wonder that when all this was at its height, it vented itself in these emotions? There was the sight of Benjamin. He was his own dear brother, my mother's son. For twenty years they had been separated. Would not the sight of Benjamin unnerve Joseph? Then there were the thoughts of his father. His brethren had been speaking much of Jacob, of the old man, of his grey hairs, of how he pined for Joseph. This had stirred Joseph to the depths. Then there was the harsh treatment of his brethren. He had recognized them the instant they entered his presence. He put them through a rigorous course of discipline. His lessons for them had cut them like knives. He had charged them with meaning treachery, theft, falsehood, yet his heart turned towards them. Then there was Juda, his earnest pleadings. There are not more melting words in the Bible, and Joseph (no marvel) wept aloud after that intercession. Then there was what he was about to disclose to them. Startling news has a fashion of choking our utterance. Who has not wept aloud when he was about to relate what would be sure to produce weeping? And here Joseph had it on his lips: "I am Joseph. I am he whom ve

sold into Egypt." It is surprising that with this disclosure on his lips Joseph wept aloud ere he could stammer it forth? Now arises the question: What do WE weep for? Will mention some things we may properly weep for:

OUR SINS. They offend and dishonor God. They defile, and wound and destroy our souls. They crucified Jesus. We are indignant with the Jews and Romans for piercing His precious flesh on Calvary. But our sins complelled Him to be so tortured. Oh, weep over your sins as Peter did over his denial of Jesus.

2. OUR UNKINDNESS. We do not intend always to injure or distress, but we say what does it or we do what does it and we treat it lightly. We wish children would learn and keep in mind these lines. Evil is wrought from want of thought as well as from want of heart.

There is nothing which will so haunt us when we are lying at the gates of death as unkindness. Then we shall bewail them, but it is better to do so now, when we can pick out the thorn both from our own conscience and the wrong one's side.

- 3. OUR INGRATITUDE. Who has not these to mourn over? Ingratitude to God, our creator. Ingratitude to Jesus, who redeemed us by His own shame and agony. Ingratitude to the Holy Spirit, who has sought our salvation when we disregarded it. Ingratitude to all who are over us in the Lord.
- 4. OUR WASTED OPPORTUNITIES. We might have gathered wisdom, which is above riches. We might have gained God's favor. We might have adorned ourselves with virtues and graces, but we let the whole train glide by without seizing on a single gem.

Weep for these lost opportunities. Oh, let us pour our tears at Jesus' feet, and God will hear our own tears and say, I have blotted out your transgressions for His sake who once wept at Gethsemane garden for thee.

## THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Congregation and Her Work

J. H. Moore

Any congregation is duly authorized to put into operation any part of the Gospel pertaining to the work of the church. She can select her officers, administer discipline and observe the ordinances of the house of God. It is her duty to see to the preaching of the Word, the maintaining of the principles of the church, and in the unity of membership labor for the purity, loyalty and efficiency of the body. So long as she keeps within the limits of the Gospel it is her duty, in the administering of discipline, to loose or to bind.

Regulated by the Gospel and guided by the Spirit, she can and should pass on the membership of her own body, her aim being to bring all the members of the body to the highest possible plane of living and usefulness.

In the maintenance of purity, loyalty and efficiency in the membership, it becomes the duty of each and every congregation to administer discipline in an earnest, a wise, a loving and a faithful manner. Every member who has, by way of the new birth, entered the church family, is a child of God, and it becomes the duty of the body organized to take a special interest in each new-born creature, and aid in developing and training such a one for Christ and his service. The life of a child of God is precious in the sight of the Great Father; he is an heir of the kingdom, and to trifle with his title to a home in the heavenly kingdom is a serious matter. Any attempt to disinherit him, before he has, by his waywardness, clearly forfeited his rights to the heavenly inheritance, will most assuredly meet with the disapproval of Heaven. It is the duty of the church to labor wisely and earnestly for the salvation of every one entering the church home, and in administering discipline this should be kept in view.

And while this is true, the dignity, standing, purity and authority of the church must not be sacrificed. Upon the part of any wellorganized body, charity and authority should stand side by side, and love and justice should go hand in hand. While protecting the rights and privileges of each one the members as a whole, should be brought to realize the importance of respecting the dignity, standing and authority of the church. No church can expect to have any standing in a community unless she measures up well to her highest claims. The people of a community may have charity for a weak and indifferent church member, but they look with disdain upon a weak, indifferent and inconsistent church. If the church would have a good influence in any city, town or community, she will find it necessary to have her members, in their manner of living, in their dealings, and in everything else that goes to make up true manhood and womanhood in Christ Jesus, measure up, as closely as possible, to the higher claims of Christianity. Those around us may not accept some things we teach, but on every hand they will be found giving us credit for strength, firmness, and loyalty to the principles we teach, for consistency, and for the charity that is due to others. And while striving for these higher ideals, let each congregation have for its aim the saving of souls, the perfecting of the saints in Christ Jesus, and the making of the church an honor to the cause it represents.

#### **OBITUARY**

#### LUCILLE THRONE

Sis. Lucille M. Throne was born November 16, 1926, in Defiance County, Ohio the daughter of Martha (Pendleton) and Clyde Riter. She passed away at her home near Alvordton, Ohio, the morning of October 13, 1988, at the age of 61.

Sis. Lucille was married to Bro. George Throne on December 24, 1944. They made their home on the farm near Alvordton. Preceding her marriage, Sis. Lucille had lived in Bryan, Ohio.

In 1951, Bro. George became a deacon at the Pleasant Ridge Church. She served with him in this work, as well as being a Sunday School teacher for many years. Sis. Lucille and Bro. George served at Torreon Navajo Mission, Cuba, New Mexico for about two and a half years. She was always interested in the work there, as well as home mission work.

Sis. Lucille is survived by her husband, George; their five children, Kathy Purk of Bryan, Ohio, Danny of West Unity, Ohio, Martha Heer of West Unity, Ohio, Margaret Snyder of Denver, Pennsylvania and Stuart of Alvordton, Ohio; her twin sister, Marceil Bruet, Bryan, Ohio, twin brothers, Lyle and Leslie Riter of Bryan, Ohio and Calvin Riter of Stryker, Ohio; also twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers.

Services were held at the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church, with Elder Edward Johnson and Bro. Dennis St. John officiating.

"Where's Mom?"

When I was but a little child, I'd go to school all day, And when I stepped inside the door, You'd always hear me say, "Where's Mom?"

Now time has passed and mine are grown, But one thing has never changed. When they return and I'm not there, You'll hear them say, "Where's Mom?"

Then time continued through the years, And they now have a home. But it is just the same. When they come home, I hear them say, "Where's Mom?"

And when I get my home above, If they've all been true to Him, I'm sure I'll hear each one say, Please tell me, "Where's Mom?"

- Lucille Throne

Lucille and I talked many times during her long illness. She accepted her suffering with grace that only the Lord can give. Her hope was that all would prepare for that crossing over the river. What a blessing to know there is rest in Jesus from this world and its cares.

My family and I wish to thank you all for your cards, prayers and support during Lucille's illness. God bless, and we love you all.

Brother George Throne and family

### **NEWS ITEMS**

# MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

The new address of Elder Rudy Cover is: 2435 Temperate Avenue, Modesto, California 95351.

The new address of Bro. Jan L. Heisey is: R. 1 Box 31, Taylors-ville, Mississippi 39168. His new telephone number is: 601-785-4461.

# SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The first Sunday of November we were privileged to enjoy another Lovefeast Day. It was a day of Spiritual messages and Christian fellowship. We appreciate Bro. David Augnst, bringing us many inspiring thoughts for Christian living. Bro. Carl Broadwater officiated in the evening.

We have rejoiced on behalf of seven persons who have united with our congregation during the past summer. Four were baptized in connection with our Revival Meeting in August. Elder Fred Pifer inspired us with spiritual and challenging messages. May God bless and guide Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane and their family as they labor in God's service. Also, our special concerns and prayers should be in support of the new lambs.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

#### NOTICE

Lesson leaflets with a Bible story and a picture to color are available from the Bible Study Board for the Primary Sunday School Classes. Write to: Bro. Fred Pifer, R. 3 Box 184, Adel, Iowa 50003.

### THANK YOU

I wish to thank all of you for your cards, flowers, prayers and other expressions of thoughtfulness during my recent illness. Your concern and prayers made my recuperation a much shorter and more tolerable experience. I am most grateful for your friendship.

Sister Mamie Broadwater

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1989

January 1 - The Alpha and Omega - Revelation 1:1-20

- 1. What promise is given to those who study and receive the message of Revelation? verse 3.
- 2. How is Christ our Alpha and Omega? Hebrews 12:2.

January 8 - The Church in Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7.

- 1. What was missing in the church at Ephesus? verse 4.
- 2. Can we "go through the motions" without devotion? I Cor. 13:1-3.

January 15 - The Church in Smyrna - Revelation 2:8-11.

- 1. Name the strengths of the Smyrna Church.
- 2. How long does God desire faithfulness? verse 10.

January 22 - The Church in Pergamos - Revelation 2:12-17.

- 1. What basic problem existed in Pergamos?
- 2. Does pressure cause us to compromise?

January 29 - The Church in Thyatira - Revelation 2:18-29.

- 1. What problem did Christ see in the church at Thyatira?
- 2. How should the Church guard against evil today?

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1989

January 1 - Our Resolutions - Luke 16:1-17.

- 1. What master (v. 13) are we resolved to serve in 1989?
- 2. What are the true riches in verse 11?

January 8 - Our Shallowness - Ez. 33:30-32, Mark 4:16-17, John 6:64-69, Eph. 4:14-16.

- 1. Name some symptoms of "spiritual shallowness."
- 2. Name some signs of "spiritual depth." Mark 4:20.

January 15 - Monuments - Jer. 1:17-19, Gal. 2:8-10, Rev. 3:10-12.

- 1. Who will be a pillar of the faith? Rev. 3:12.
- 2. How are pillars of the faith "built?"

January 22 - Living Forever - Luke 18:18-30, John 3:14-21, 36.

- 1. Who is our ticket to eternal life? John 3:16.
- 2. What was lacking in the young ruler's life?

January 29 - Our Virtue - II Peter 1:3-11, Phil. 4:6-9, I Peter 3:10-12.

- 1. Define Christian virtue.
- 2. Why should virtue precede knowledge? II Cor. 8:1.